

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Quick Action Imperative

THE Colony, at first appalled by the shocking Christmas Day fire disaster, has responded with characteristic promptness to the official appeals for aid for the many thousands who have lost their homes and possessions. Much more, however, is needed to ensure that all the sufferers can be provided with clothing, blankets and other necessities and we commend to everybody in a position to do so, to give generously and thus help to relieve the distress which so many unfortunate people are now suffering. It has officially been stated that the Christmas Day disaster was the worst fire which has ever afflicted the Colony; certainly the number of squatters rendered homeless through a single conflagration is the largest ever, and it is easy to appreciate that Government's emergency relief facilities are being stretched to the limit. It is this which makes it imperative that the limited official resources should be immediately augmented by public donations, both in money and in kind. Readers of the South China Morning Post Company's group of newspapers are invited to make monetary donations through the fund which the SCM Post, Ltd., has opened. The need is urgent and the cause so self-evident that it requires no additional emphasis.

THE tragic fire poses problems other than those of quick, emergency relief to the thousands of dispossessed squatters. There is the tremendous task of resettlement, and it is this which once again underscores the necessity for Government's long-term resettlement plan being accelerated to the utmost. Nothing is to be gained by seeking to attach blame for the squatter village fires which have been a plague over the last five years. They must remain a daily possibility until the so-called illegal squatters have been resettled in properly developed sites where fire risks are reduced to the minimum. But the aggravated position caused by Friday's disaster poses a challenge to Government which is not to be met merely by invoking temporary and expedient relief measures. Permanent structures for the homeless squatters must be speedily provided, which means that new targets in the resettlement plan are required. And this needs to be accomplished even if it involves more substantial immediate official subsidisation for the required clearance work and construction of buildings. Government has announced top priority for emergency relief measures; similar priority is also demanded for undertaking resettlement.

16-YEAR-OLD BOY BEHEADED AND SCALPED: FARMER ARRESTED

The police announced that a 28-year-old farmhand confessed he killed, beheaded and scalped a 16-year-old boy. The scalp was found in the murderer's pocket.

The police said they found the body of Wolfgang Graebner, 16, in a wood near Gruiten, outside of Duesseldorf. The body was cut to pieces and the missing head was found in a ditch nearby.

What shocked them most was that the skin and hair had been attached to the severed head. The police arrested Karl Hain, 28, who had lived and worked with Graebner at a farm here. After several hours

interrogation, Hain confessed he killed and scalped the boy. The scalp was found in the pocket of one of Hain's jackets, the police said.—United Press.

NAGUIB'S COMPLAINT

President Mohammed Naguib today told Mr. Richard Crossman, British Labour Member of Parliament, that among the things "marring" Anglo-Egyptian relations and preventing a Suez Canal agreement were "unfair campaigns" by some British politicians against Egypt and Egyptians. Mr. Crossman had just returned to Cairo from a visit to Palestine Arab refugees in the Gaza coastal area of Egypt. The Egyptian President told Mr. Crossman Egypt could not accept "any bargaining or infringement of her independence and sovereignty." She had said her word. President Naguib also told Mr. Crossman that a solution to the refugee problem could be found only in repatriation and compensation. This problem was the concern of all Arab countries and not Egypt or any one Arab country alone, he said. Mr. Crossman will fly to Kenya aboard the plane which will bring Mr. Aneurin Bevan, leader of the left-wing of the British Labour Party, and Mrs. Bevan to Cairo tonight.—Reuters.

President Mohammed Naguib today told Mr. Richard Crossman, British Labour Member of Parliament, that among the things "marring" Anglo-Egyptian relations and preventing a Suez Canal agreement were "unfair campaigns" by some British politicians against Egypt and Egyptians. Mr. Crossman had just returned to Cairo from a visit to Palestine Arab refugees in the Gaza coastal area of Egypt. The Egyptian President told Mr. Crossman Egypt could not accept "any bargaining or infringement of her independence and sovereignty." She had said her word. President Naguib also told Mr. Crossman that a solution to the refugee problem could be found only in repatriation and compensation. This problem was the concern of all Arab countries and not Egypt or any one Arab country alone, he said. Mr. Crossman will fly to Kenya aboard the plane which will bring Mr. Aneurin Bevan, leader of the left-wing of the British Labour Party, and Mrs. Bevan to Cairo tonight.—Reuters.

French Air Strike Over Return To Work Begins Today

Paris, Dec. 28. Striking key ground staff at French airports last night decided to go back to work at 11 a.m., GMT today.

The key men, including control tower plotters, radio operators guiding aircraft on and off airfields and airfield firemen, came out at 11 a.m., GMT on December 19 claiming higher wages. Their trade unions announced last night that an agreement had been reached between the strike committee and the Secretariat of State for Civil Aviation.

During the eight-day strike, they maintained a security watch to assist aircraft in distress and handled aircraft taking off or arriving from Indo-China. Other aircraft, including transatlantic services, were diverted to airports outside France or, in clear weather, landed and took off without ground assistance.

Trade Union sources said the settlement provided for an immediate bonus ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 Francs (£3 to £7), to be followed by negotiations for a new wage scale. British European Airways said they expected normal services to start immediately this morning.

Air France, the French state airline, announced departures for London at 3 p.m., GMT and 6 p.m., GMT today.

They also announced departures for Birmingham and Manchester, Caracas and Bogota, New York, Cairo, Tetera, Frankfurt, Barcelona, and North and West Africa. Normal time tables would be operating from midnight today, they added.—Reuters.

Disturbing Situation In Indo-China

Hanoi, Dec. 27. More than 100,000 victory-flushed Communists wheeled into position for new attacks along Indo-China's 16th Parallel today under orders from the rebel leader, Ho Chi-minh, to "destroy the enemy and achieve new feats of arms."

Neighbouring Thailand cancelled demobilisation plans. It ordered into service for three additional months troops racing into position in the city of Nakorn Panom, just across the river from Thakhet in Laos, which fell to Vietminh assault columns yesterday.

Poised for attack against Indo-China's "rice bowl"—the lush Hanoi delta protected by French steel and concrete forts—were three Communist divisions which did not even have to be used in the lightning drive from the coast to Thakhek which chopped Indo-China in two.

A round-the-clock airlift poured supplies into Savannakhet, 50 miles south of Thakhet, where battle-weary French and Laotian soldiers massed for further Red attacks, expected within a day or two.

Ho's broadcast victory Order of the Day seemed to confirm French predictions that the lightning dash which split Indo-China along the 16th Parallel, which divided Chinese and British occupation troops at the end of World War II, was merely the first phase of the rebels' winter drive.

Political quarters speculated that last week's rebel attacks, which followed Ho's proposals for negotiations to end the fighting, were designed to strengthen his bargaining position for a settlement, splitting the nation—Korean-pattern—into North and South.

Destroy the enemy and achieve new feats of arms," Ho told his army of crack regulars, equipped with some of Red China's most modern recoilless artillery and backed by swarms of bare-foot, jungle-wise cadres who carry ammunition and supplies.

He also had time to rearm his crack 320th Division badly mauled two months ago in France's Operation Seagull, launched in an apparently vain effort to reduce the force of the rebels' winter campaign.—United Press.

Thailand today ordered strong police forces to patrol the Mekong River, boundary with the invaded Indo-Chinese kingdom of Laos, and cancelled the scheduled demobilisation of troops. Reports reaching the capital said Thai troops were rushed to the town of Nakorn Panom, opposite the burning town of Thakhek, which fell to the Communist Vietminh in the Red's biggest offensive of the Indo-China war.

Top Thai defence officials visited the Thai border town where the government declared a state of emergency and personally supervised enlargement of the airport to handle the influx of refugees who streamed across the river.

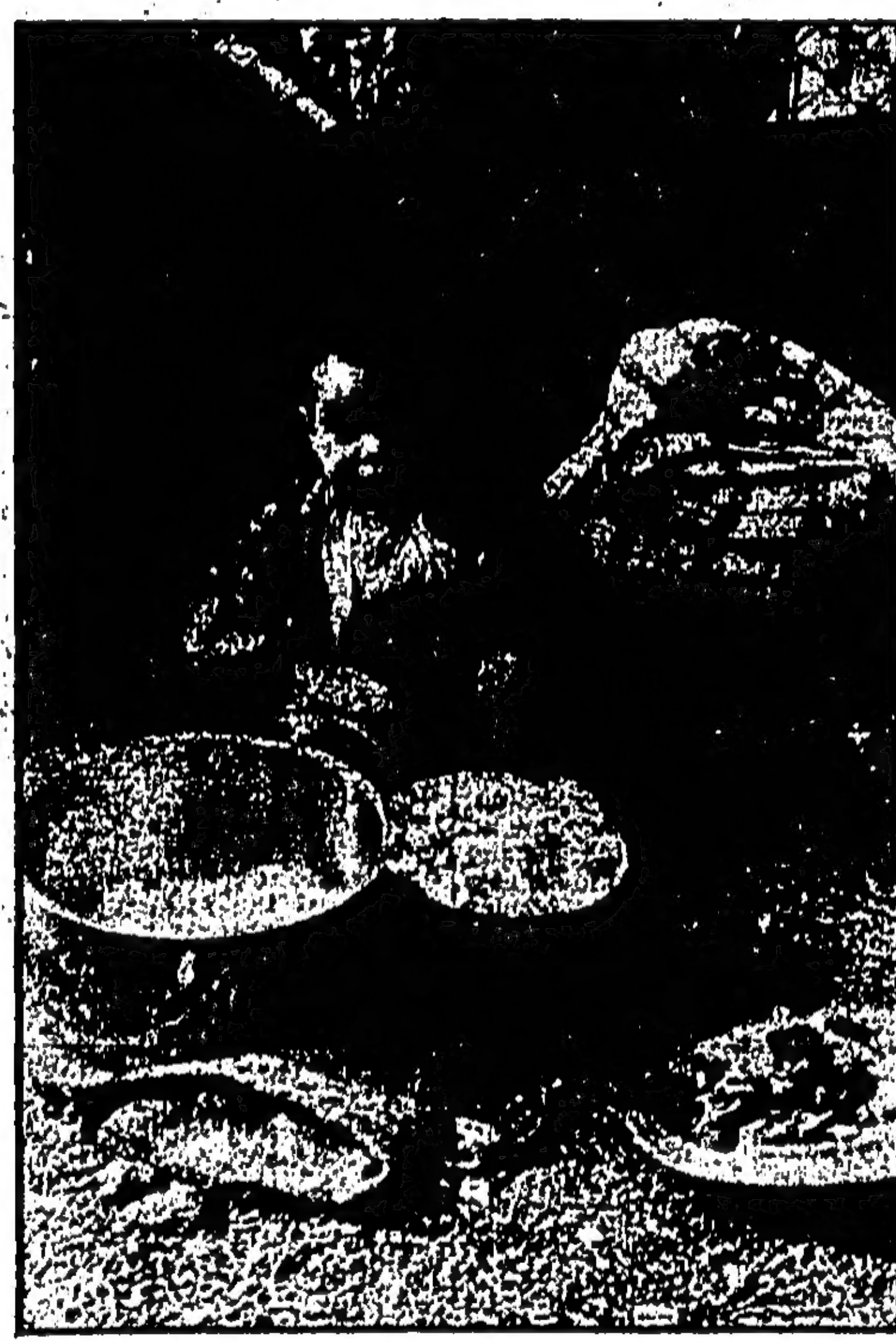
General Phan Eriyanonda, police chief and deputy Minister of the Interior, told frontier officials and residents of Nakorn Panom the Thai armed forces and police forces were capable of giving protection to the lives and property of Thai people along the frontier.

General Phan, accompanied by Air Marshal Fuen Rithagani, head of the Air Force, and other high Army officers arrived in Nakorn Panom on Friday night to survey the situation. General Phan said the government was planning to take all possible steps to make Nakorn Panom a safe sanctuary for "our brethren across the river as well as stepping up defence of the town."

Some 820 Laotian refugees, mostly aged women and children, were reported to have crossed into Nakorn Panom by boat Saturday. From Nakorn Panom French planes could be seen bombing the town of Thakhek with napalm and bombing ammunition dumps. Fire was visible across the river and explosions could be heard as the ammunition dumps went up.—United Press.

VIETMINH REDS PREPARE

They Need Your Help



Accidents, Tragedies Mar Christmas

London, Dec. 27. Western Europe began counting the tragic toll today of traffic fatalities, murders and suicides which marred the peace and happiness of the Christmas holidays in 1953, its most bountiful since World War II.

First unofficial reports from eight countries showed at least 112 persons met violent deaths and 80 were injured or missing. The total does not include the worst disaster in Europe over the holidays—the collision of two passenger trains in Czechoslovakia near the Austro-Czech border on Thursday, in which "around 100 persons were killed and injured."

Of the 112 reported deaths, 76 were in traffic accidents. Sixty of the 80 injured also were hurt in traffic accidents. Thirteen suicides have been reported and seven murders and 16 persons were killed in miscellaneous accidents.

A 16-year-old West German boy was shot to death by Russian border guards and his mother was seriously wounded. The Russians opened fire with a tommy gun, apparently because the boy's father drove past a stop sign. They then held the father, mother and boy for 30 minutes without giving them a stop sign. They then released them.—United Press.

The boy was dead when his parents took him to a hospital.—United Press.

Chicago, Dec. 27. Christmas holiday fatalities climbed over the 500 mark today and the traffic toll was expected to spurt sharply as home-bound motorists jammed the country's highways.

Our staff photographer yesterday caught these two studies of some of the Shumshupo fire victims partaking of a substantial and much needed meal after they had lost their homes and possessions on Christmas Day. Nearly 60,000 people are now in urgent need of clothing and other provisions until they can be rehoused.

STOP PRESS

Davis Cup: Hoag Wins

Melbourne, Dec. 28. Australia drew first blood in the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup here today, when Lewis Hoag beat Vic Seixas of the United States in straight sets—6-4, 6-2, 6-3. Hoag, making his first appearance in the Challenge Round, played like a veteran and dictated matters throughout the match. He was especially accurate in his powerful service. In the three sets he had only five game points against his service, and on each occasion he saved the situation to win through. On the other hand, he broke through Seixas' service five times—once in the first set, twice in the second and twice in the 7th and ninth games in the third.—Reuters.

Melbourne, Dec. 28. The United States leveled the singles in the Davis Cup challenge round today when Tony Trabert defeated Ken Rosewell 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.—Reuters.

Total at 11 a.m. today: \$40,548.00.

Fire Victims Relief Fund

At 11 o'clock this morning a total of \$40,548 had been subscribed to the S.C.M. Post, Ltd., Shumshupo Fire Victims Relief Fund.

Heading today's donations was a cheque for \$10,000 from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and \$10,000 from the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.

Members of the public who desire to subscribe to this fund should cross cheques and make them out to "The Shumshupo Fire Victims Relief Fund."

TODAY'S DONATIONS

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$10,000
The Union Insurance Society of Canton Ltd	10,000
Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Turner	1,000
Joan & Leo Landau	500
Indo China Trading Company Ltd.	500
Mr. & Mrs. O. Skinner	500
Hon. Kwok Chin & Co.	500
White Rose	250
Mr. S. W. G. Poon	250
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Dyer and John	150
Mr. R. C. Olive	100
Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Wright	100
Mr. A. M. Mack	100
Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Sinclair	100
Mr. & Mrs. C. Maclean	100
Mrs. Julia F. Chang	100
Mr. R. D. Bell	100
Anonymous	80
Dragon Inn Party	75
Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Gray	50
Mr. Erich Benola	50
Dr. & Mrs. G. V. A. Griffin	50
Mr. & Mrs. Y. T. Mei	50
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. H. Maynard	50
Mr. Fauchen Loh	50
Mr. & Mrs. Alastair Todd	50
Mr. Leung Yew Chung	50
Anonymous	45
George, Sybil & Bill Owen	40
"In memory of Theism"	30
Mr. & Mrs. S. S. Gordon	25
Mr. F. A. Nixon	25
Mr. F. J. Robinson	25
Mr. A. C. Greaves	20
Mr. John March	20
Mr. E. H. F. White	20
Mr. Charles Luk	20
Mr. L. M. S. Shum	20
Anonymous	20
Mr. Cheung Chun Kwan	10
Mr. & Mrs. Cheung Wing In	10
Anonymous	10
Mr. Tse Chung	10
Mr. Yuen Wai Luen	10
Mr. Cheung Lay	10
Mr. Li Fong	5
Mr. Lo Tak Mei	5
Mr. Chan Po Cheung	5
Mr. Leung Fung	5
Mr. Wong Tung	5
Mr. Lam Ho Yin	5
Anonymous	5
Total at 11 a.m. today:	\$40,548.00.



PLYMOUTH

Advantages offered only by Plymouth in the lowest-priced field: such features as: Safety-Rim Wheels for protection in case of a blowout; natural-posture Chair-Height Seats; constant-action Electric Windshield Wipers; Ignition-Key Starting with Automatic Choke for fast, smooth starting; and many others that make Plymouth the "low-priced car most like the high-priced cars."

Power
Newly-designed combustion chamber makes Plymouth's famous high-compression, 97-horsepower engine even smoother and quieter!

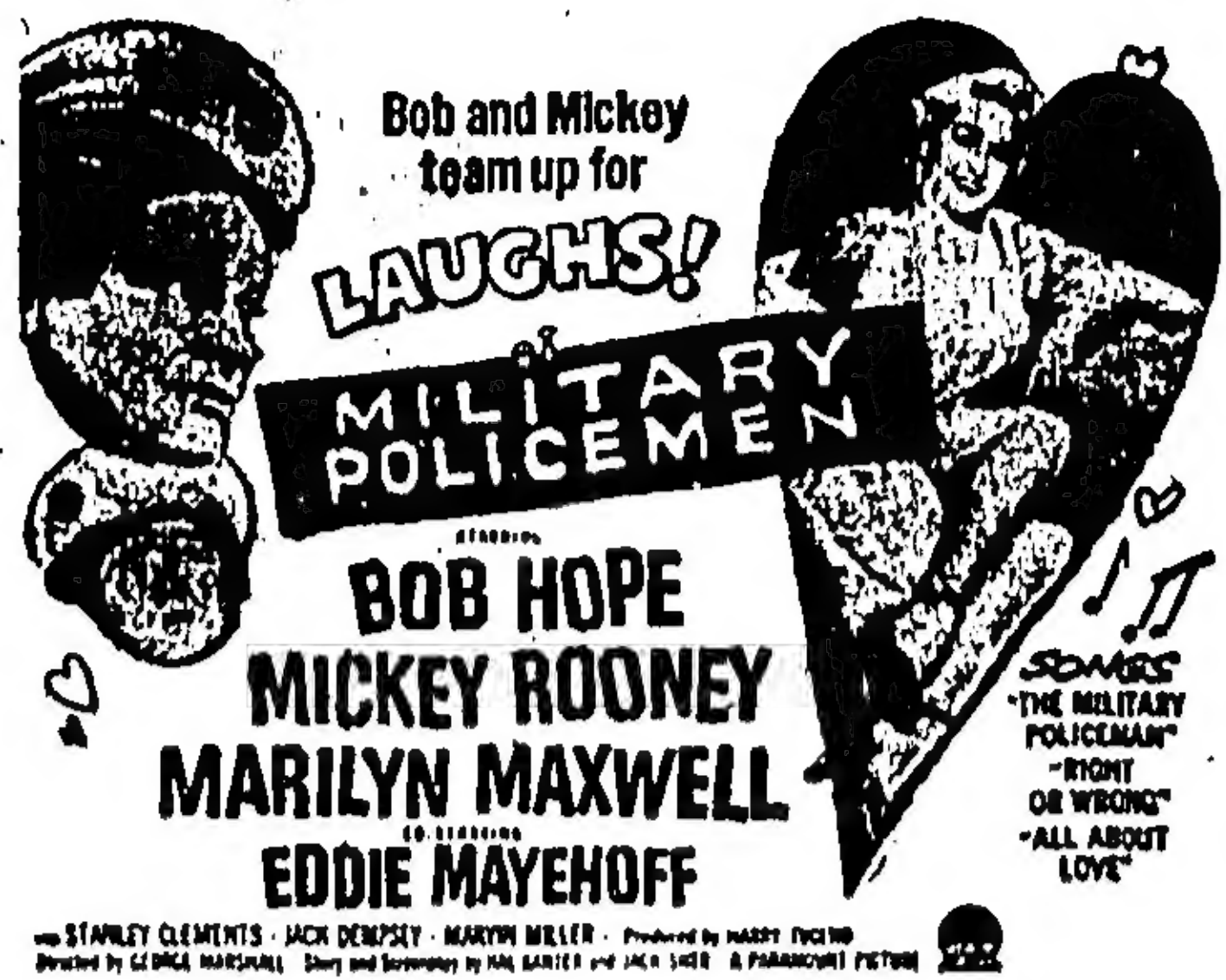
Brakes
New Cyclobond linings do away with rivets, add to effective braking area and lengthen lining life.

GILMAN MOTORS
132 NATHAN ROAD TEL. 56789

KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 and 9.30 p.m. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 and 9.30 p.m.

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★



★ NEXT CHANGE ★

KING'S • PRINCESS • EMPIRE

CAPITOL LIBERTY

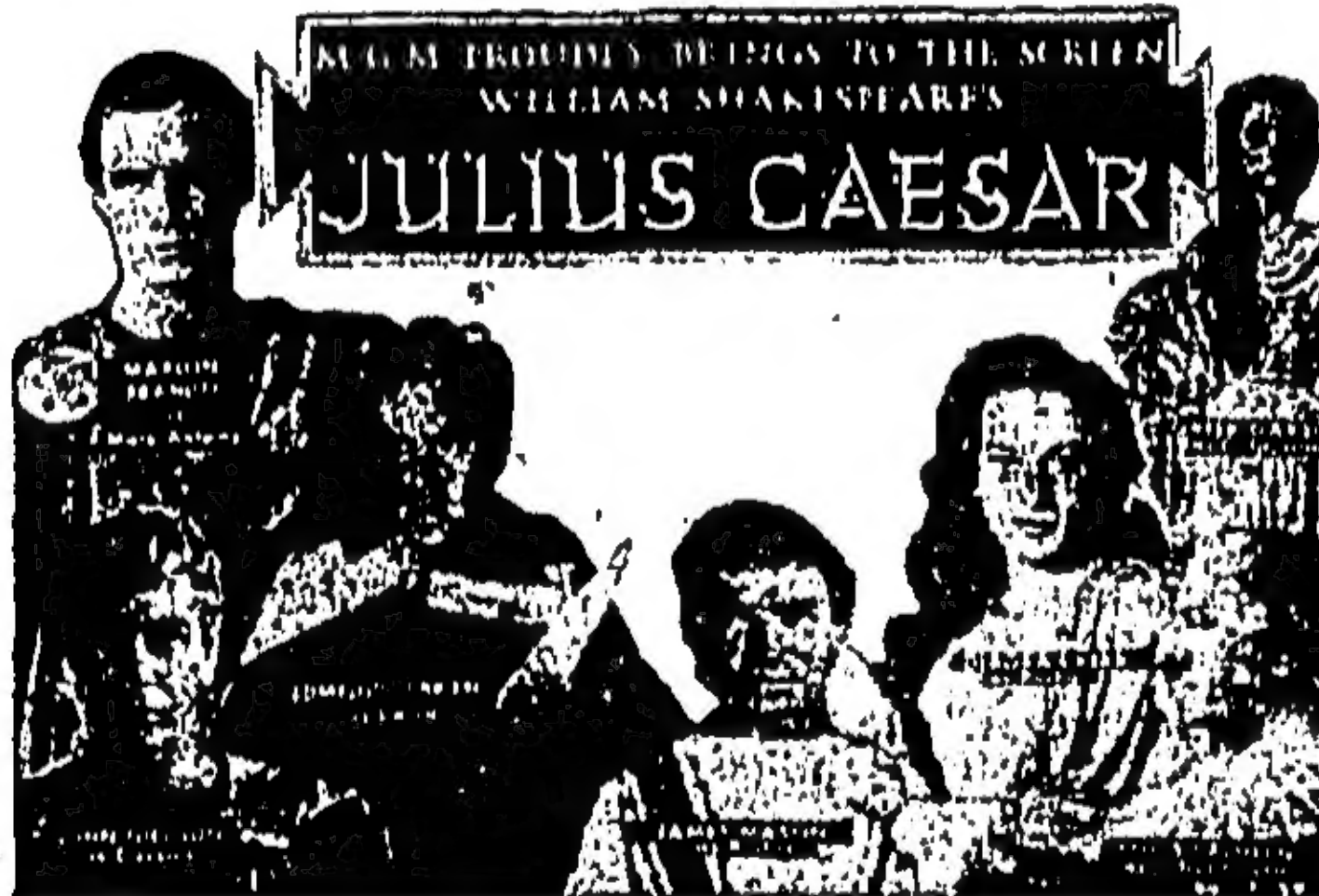
Tel: 7331 THE HOME OF Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer DISTURBS Tel: 5023
CAPITOL TOWN BOOKING OFFICE:
Wing Hong Firm, Hong Kong Hotel, Queen's Road, C.

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

Special Times: At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.
ON PANORAMIC SCREEN



NEXT CHANGE



CIRCUS BUSCH.

— BERLIN —

Real Artistic & Breath-taking Acts!
2 Shows Daily at 6.00 & 9.00 p.m.

PRICES: Adults from \$2.40 Children from \$1.50
BOOKINGS: 10 days to 12 noon
WING HONG FIRM
Hongkong Hotel Bldg.

SUNDAYS 3 SHOWS From 12 noon
At 2.00, 6.00, 9.00 p.m. The Circus Grounds
Causeway Bay.

Chopping The Noughts Off The Greek Drachmae Bank Notes

Athens, Dec. 27.

Greece will embark on a drastic currency reform next year, chopping the last three noughts from the drachmae banknotes, in an attempt to restore public confidence in the country's money.

The main object of the measure is to ease commercial transactions and to a lesser extent, to save people carrying around the grossly inflated currency in bags or even suit-cases.

This step was announced by Mr Spiros Markezinis, Greece's Economic Co-ordinator, in Parliament.

Moslems In E. Africa Don't Want A "Third Force"

Nairobi, Dec. 27.

A conference of East African Moslems decided today to reject a plan for an Islamic political "third force" but agreed to form a committee to examine the possibility of establishing a non-political organization for Moslems in British East African territories.

The two-day conference ended today.

The plan to set up a central political body to represent the 80,000 Moslems in Kenya, Tanganyika and Zanzibar was thrown out because of opposition from all but the Kenya delegates.

The conference agreed that it viewed with concern the "alarming rate of immigrants entering East African territories in relation to the number of Moslem immigrants" and urged the governments concerned to fix immigration quotas for various areas.

The resolution stated that 10,000 Asian children would leave school shortly in East Africa without any hope of getting work.

On the subject of education, delegates decided to recommend to East African governments the establishment of "common state schools" in which Africans should receive special consideration. They urged that religion should form an integral part of education.

The Moslems demanded equal opportunities for Africans, who, they said, should be taught to increase agricultural productivity by the use of modern methods and encouraged to raise cash crops. More land should be given to Africans in view of the overcrowding of Asian reserves. — China Mail Special.

"Mandy" Film Wins German Award

Frankfurt, Dec. 27.

The British film "Mandy," story of a little deaf and dumb girl, received an Evangelical Film Guild award as the best film of the month here.

The guild said that the unsentimental and simple presentation of factual courage was made deeply moving by the artistry of the British actors. — Reuters.

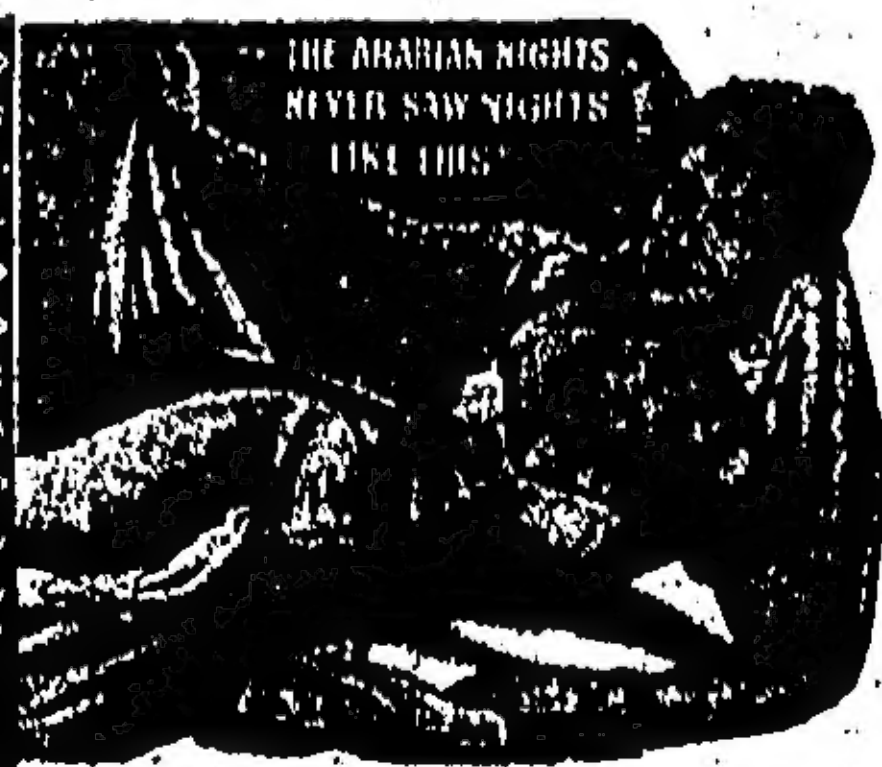
SHOWING AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

MAJESTIC

TO-DAY X'MAS ATTRACTION!

PAULETTE GODDARD GYPSY ROSE LEE.

Babes In Bagdad



AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

Bevan To Meet Nagnib

Cairo, Dec. 27.

The British left-wing Labour leader, Mr Amourin Bevan, and his wife Jenny Lee, who are expected to arrive here from London tonight, will be the guests of Indian Ambassador Sardar Panikkar on the first day of their stay in Egypt, it was learned here.

Tomorrow afternoon the British visitors are expected to fly southward to Luxor with the Indian envoy to visit Upper Egyptian ancient monuments for two or three days. They are then expected to return to Cairo to meet President Mohammed Naguib. — France-Press.

H.K. Singer On B.B.C.

London, Dec. 21.

Miss Lian-Shih Yang, the young Chinese singer, is to broadcast from London in the B.B.C.'s Far Eastern service early next year. She will present a "Chinese viewpoint" in a series of three broadcasts during January.

Miss Yang has become well-known in Britain since she arrived here from Hong Kong after the war. Over Christmas she enters a new theatrical sphere in pantomime. At Swanscombe, in South Wales, she will play Aladdin in the pantomime of that name.

Filipino Youth To Play Big Role In Drive Against Reds

Manila, Dec. 28.

President-elect Ramon Magsaysay last night declared he would create a 12-man student council with the same rank as cabinet or council of state to advise him on state problems, especially on the vital question of strengthening rural areas against the threat of Communism.

The President-elect made this policy statement before a conference of youth leaders in Baguio city. It was time, he said, that the talents of youth should be mustered to solve national issues.

To give emphasis to his statement, Magsaysay said he would appoint two students to key government posts. The president of the students' "Magsaysay for President" Movement, Rafael Salas, may be appointed Commissioner for Youth Affairs.

Magsaysay stressed that students could contribute to the solution of problems facing the nation in countering the Communist threat.

The President-elect lauded the students for the part they played in keeping the last national elections clean and honest, even at the risk of their lives. He disclosed that he plans to reward the students who showed exemplary conduct in the last elections by awarding them the Legion of Honour.

FIVE-YEAR "APOSTLES"

In a keynote address to the youth leaders conference, Dr Vidal Tan, president of the University of the Philippines, posed a challenge to youth to form farm battalions which would devote five years to living with rural folks to influence their outlook. He called these battalions "Apostles of the movement."

Summing up the rural problem as one of economics and education, President Tan asked a curriculum be drawn up for teachers in high school and junior college with stress laid on hygiene and sanitation.

While on route to Baguio to address the youth leaders, Magsaysay in a stop-over at San Fernando, the capital of Pampanga province (cradle of the Huk revolution), announced he would have the Candaba swamps in that province reclaimed by army engineers and have land redistributed to the landless in that province. He added that he would have a census taken of the landless in Pampanga for the purpose of just distribution. — France-Press.

Adenauer—"Most Capable Man In W. Germany"

Bonn, Dec. 27.

A German public opinion investigation has established that 61 per cent of Germans now regard Chancellor Konrad Adenauer as the "most capable man in contemporary German politics."

The figures were released today by the Allensbach "Institute of Democracy" which claims that the popularity of the Chancellor has risen sharply in the last few months. The institute investigators, who questioned the public this month, found the Chancellor well ahead of his political rival, Social Democrat leader Erich Ollenhauer, who got only 30 per cent.

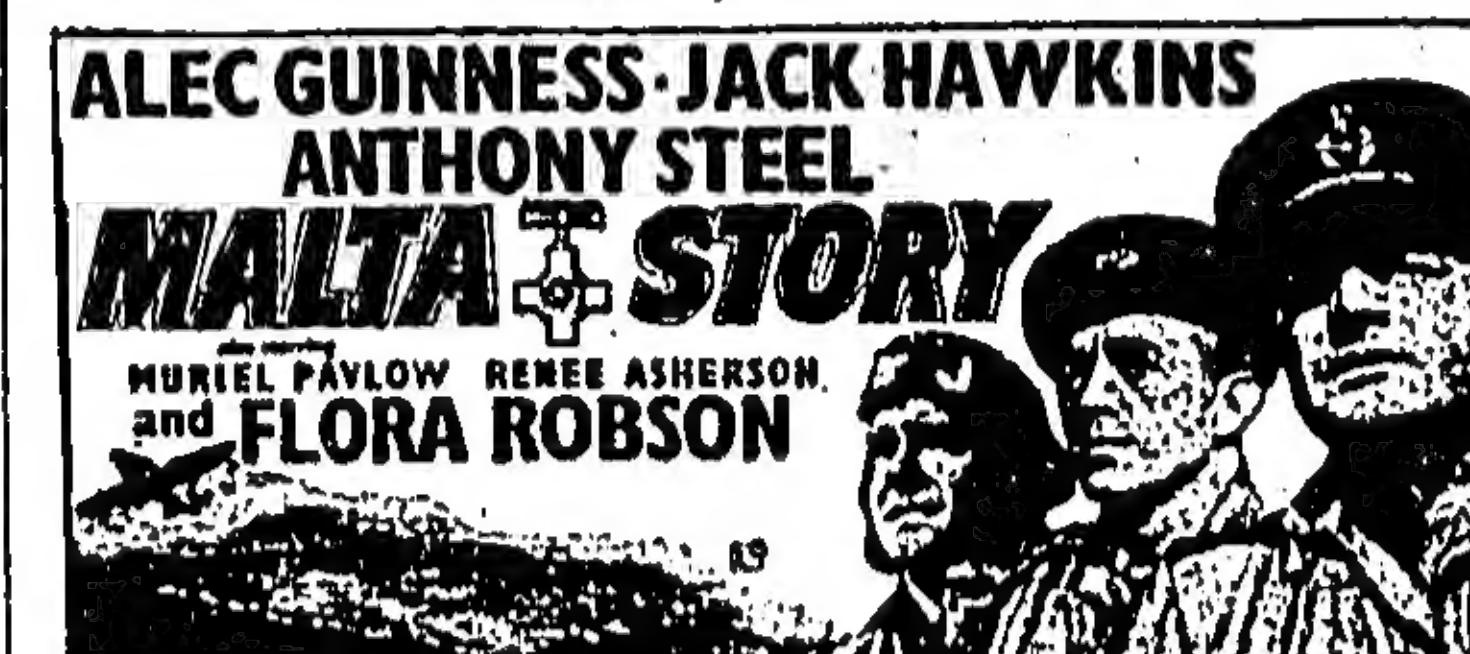
Chancellor Adenauer's popularity has had its ups and downs, according to Allensbach "democracy" investigations. In September, 1948, 50 per cent of those asked who was the most capable man in the German political scene gave Adenauer's name. At the end of 1951 it was 49 per cent. By June 1953, those supporting him had risen to 61 per cent. — France-Press.

QUEEN'S ALHAMBRA

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★



ADDED! "THE GAY PARISIAN" In Technicolor
With the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
WATCH FOR IT!!!



ROXY & BROADWAY

The ROXY TOWN BOOKING OFFICE has removed temporarily to Room 108, National Bank Bldg., 1st Floor. Tel. 20946. (From 12.00 to 5.00 p.m.)

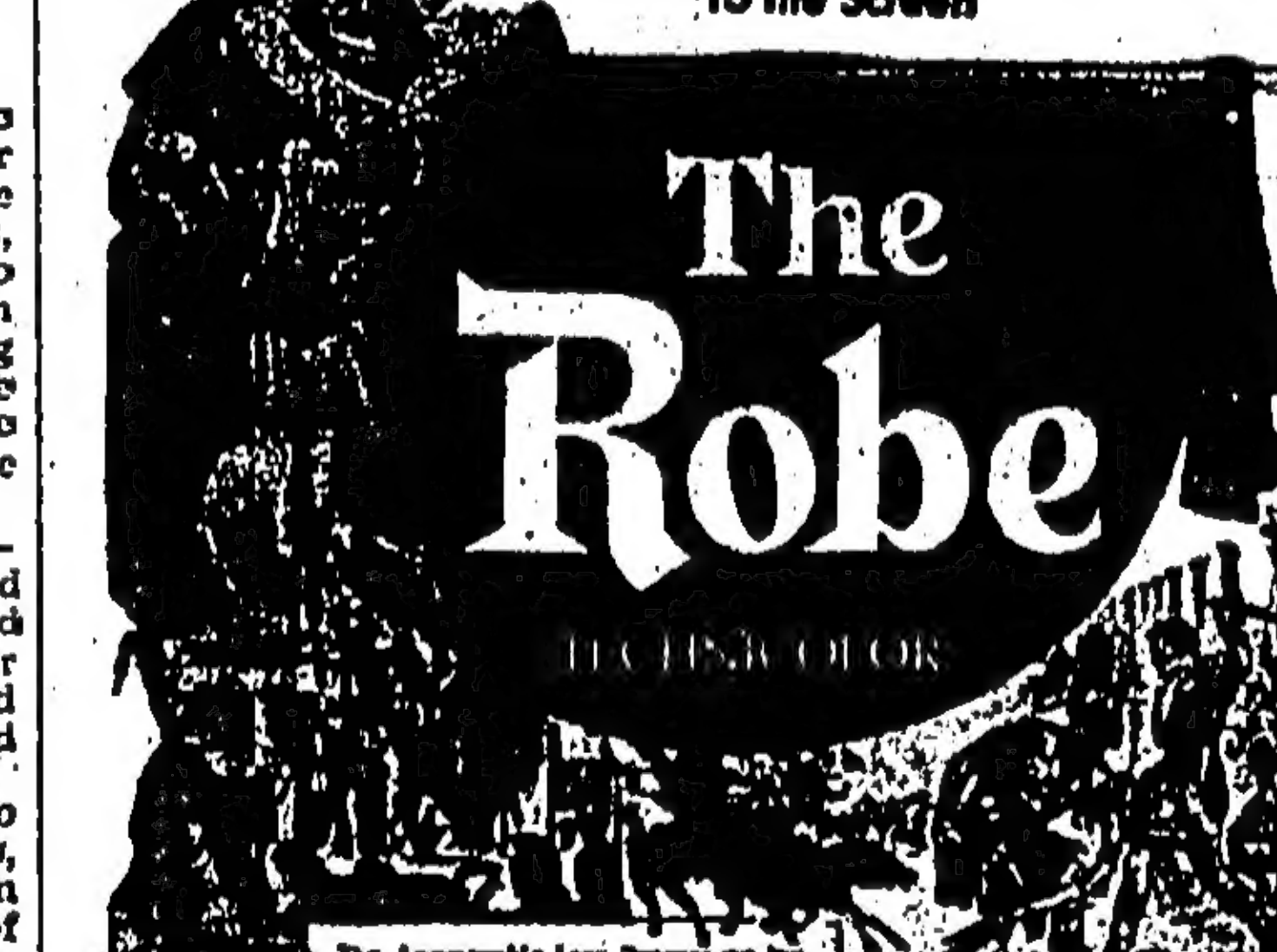
TO-DAY

Owing to length of picture please note change of times:
At 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.45 p.m.
BROADWAY 5 SHOWS TO-DAY
Extra Performance At 12.00 Noon.

20th Century-Fox presents
THE NEW DIMENSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MARVEL
YOU SEE WITHOUT GLASSES!

CINEMASCOPE

The Greatest Story of Love and Faith Ever Brought to the Screen



Special Prices of Admission: Logo & Dress Circle \$4.70, Back Stall \$3.50 & Front Stall \$2.40.
ROXY 5 SHOWS ON FRIDAY, NEW YEAR.
Extra Performance At 12.00 Noon.
BROADWAY 5 SHOWS DAILY up to NEW YEAR.
Extra Performance At 12.00 Noon.
BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!
Complimentary Tickets Are Not Valid For This Picture.

LEE Theatre

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

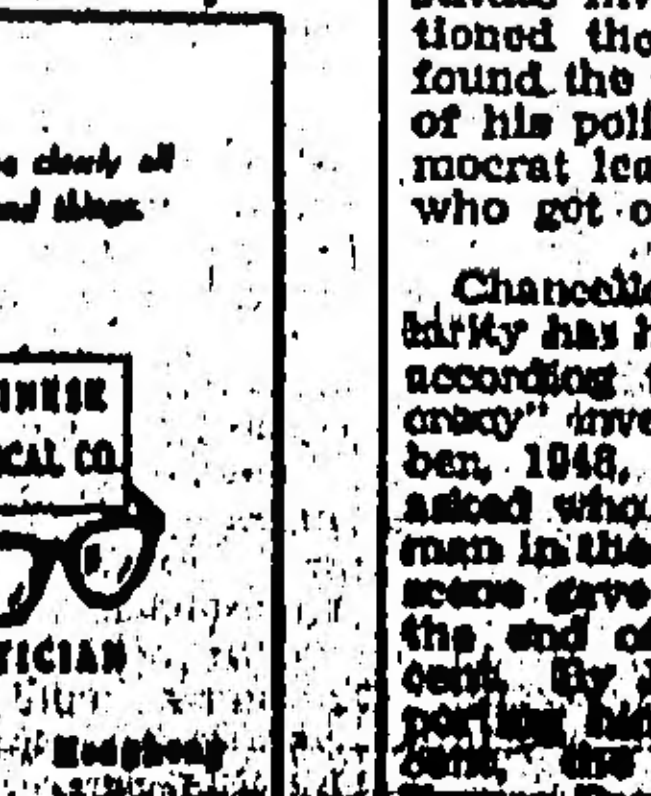
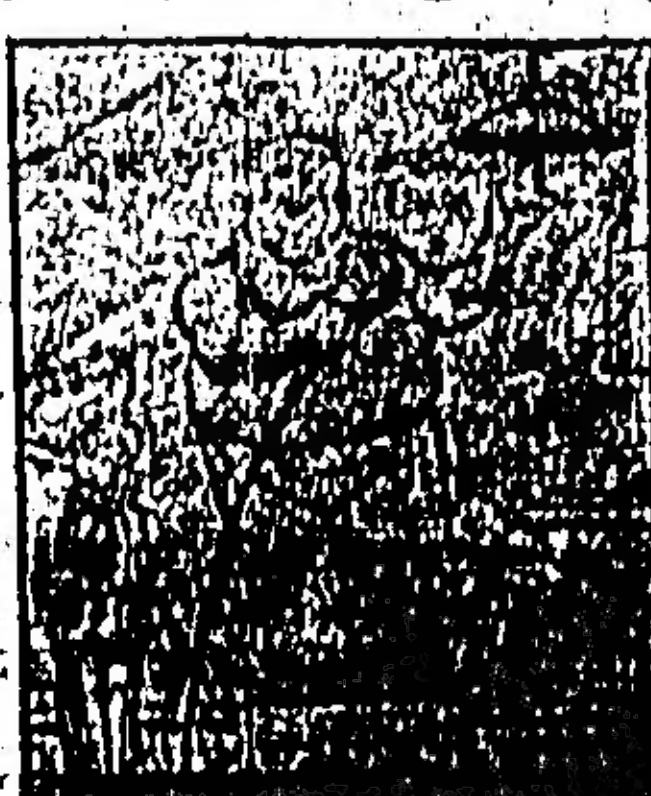
The CONQUEST of EVEREST

The 1953 Expedition with Hunt, Hillary and Tenzing
PRINTED IN TECHNICOLOR

"WILD STALLION"

Acclaimed the best short subject at the Cannes Film Festival

POP -



THE ONLY ENGLISHMAN WHO CAN MAKE THE RUSSIANS LAUGH

By ELLEN FRASER

THE way to please the Russians, says a man who knows, is to make them laugh. That is why the most popular British film star in Russia is neither Chaire Bloom nor Laurence Olivier. It is George Formby.

The Formby phenomenon was discussed by Mr. G. V. Alexandrov, the 50-year-old film producer who has been visiting Britain with a cultural delegation from the Soviets.

Two of the Formby films shown in Russia were "Turned Out Nice Again" and "Let's Go to It".

"Everyone in Russia sang the songs from his shows," Mr. Alexandrov said. "I remember there was one very popular number about a red-haired man."

Mr. Alexandrov, who looks like a jolly, friendly figure, is a man of many talents. He is a master of satire and comedy. The laughter he has created has brought him a Stalin Prize, the title of People's Artist of the U.S.S.R. (meaning he is one of the top half-dozen producers in the country) and an average income of 20,000 roubles a month (about £1,800 at the official exchange rate).

Life for him in the Soviet is very comfortable. He has, among other things, a flat in Moscow, a home in the country, a car, eight radios and two television sets.

Trapeze Act

How did he reach the heights? By way of a trapeze.

Grigory Vassilyevich Alexandrov, born in the Ural Mountains, the son of a steel-worker, started work in a circus. "I was a trapeze artist, a light-rope walker and an actor," he says. "Then one night at a Workers Theatre when I was 19, I met Eisenstein [one of Russia's most famous producers]. He liked my work. And I got a job as his assistant."

Now, as a People's Artist, he gets a basic salary of about 6,000 roubles a month (£475). For his scenarios, which he writes himself, he gets 1½ per cent of the gross take for the picture, and for producing the film, another 1½ per cent.

"I would like to make a film next year on the life of a composer," he shrugs, "but the Russian people want comedies. So I must make comedies."

During Mr. Alexandrov's month in Great Britain he has lectured, discussed films with English producers, met miners, actors, factory workers, and danced Highland reel in Scotland.

"They gave me a lift," he said with a chuckle, "and we had the traditional kissing too."

What are his impressions? "I find rather a foggy atmosphere here about our life in Russia."

he says. "We film producers must do more to show what life is really like."

One question he is constantly asked is: How much censorship is enforced in film-making? His reply: "None. We do what we want to do."

But his films support the views of the Government? "Yes. Art in the Soviet is subsidised by the State and it reflects the views of the State."

They're Serious

To Western ears this may be a little unconvincing. Less convincing is his reply to the third question: Suppose you made a film contrary to the views of the State?

"You could," he said, "there is no law against it. But if the people would not accept such ideas."

Russians take films very seriously. So an actor who plays the part of a steel-worker must spend a month in the factory before he starts. He has to be right.

"Once," says Mr. Alexandrov, "one of my actors picked up a pen between his forefinger and middle finger, instead of the normal way. I had hundreds of letters from protesting teachers. They said all the children were using their pens the same way. When the teachers told them not to, the children said the teachers were backward and should go and see the film."

Another "foggy" question asked in Britain, says Mr. Alexandrov, is: Can you succeed if you are not a member of the Communist party?

And he replies: "The Communist party looks after every body. I am a member, but only about 40 per cent of film producers are, and about 20 per cent of film actors."

Then he showed that the fog is not all on one side.

He referred to the Coronation, and to the crowds of people who gathered to say goodbye to the Queen when she left London for the Commonwealth Tour.

"What," he asked, "stage-managed that?"

That will be the biggest laugh Mr. Alexandrov gets in Britain.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



WINTER SALE!

LET US SHOW YOU THE BETTER WAY TO CHOOSE

SILKS

Tribute Satins, Ray Silks, Shantung Silks, Silk Shirtings, Brocades, Silk Gauze, Evening Jackets, House Coats, Lounging Pyjamas, etc.

We also have Tailors for ladies dresses in Chinese and European Styles, Curtains and Chair Covers.

NORTH CHINA INDUSTRIES

220, Nathan Road, Kowloon. Tel: 52249.

The Gold Room

Hotel Miramar
Is the most ideal & cozy place to Dine & Dance

• MUSIC BY TONY TUBINO QUINTET •

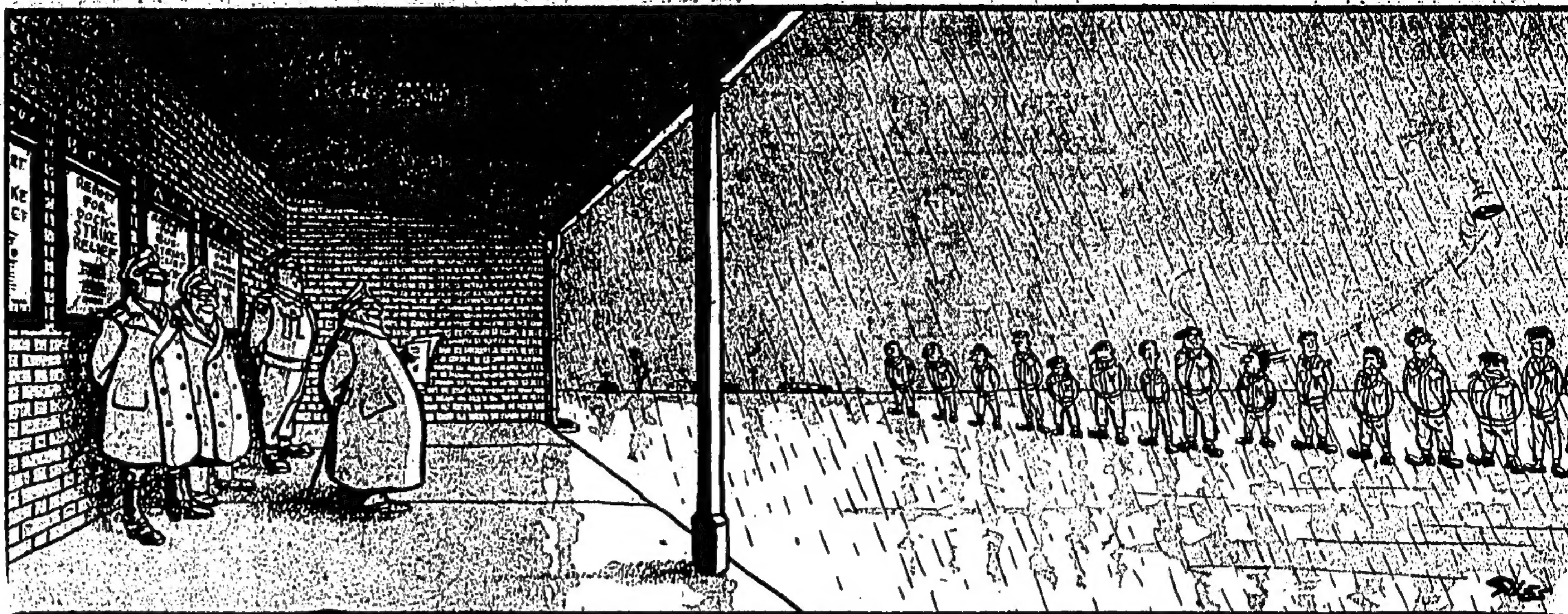
The "COCKTAIL LOUNGE" for coffee, tea, drinks, cocktail parties.

BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW FOR GALA DINNER — NEW YEAR'S EVE

★ Fancy Gifts & Novelties ★

• OPEN TILL 2 A.M. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY •

Address: Nathan Road, corner of Kimberley Road. Tel: 53011



"Now with reference to this railway strike—I suppose all of us at some time or other have wanted to be an engine driver."

London Express Service

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S WAR MEMOIRS

THE VICTORIOUS THREE AT POTSDAM

Chapter 36 Of "Triumph And Tragedy"

PRESIDENT TRUMAN arrived in Berlin [for the 1945 Potsdam Conference] the same day as I did.

I was eager to meet a potentate with whom my cordial relations, in spite of differences, had been established by the correspondence included in this volume. I called on him on the afternoon of our arrival, and was impressed with his calm, precise, sparkling manner and obvious power of decision.

Next day both the President and I made separate tours of Berlin. The city was nothing but a chaos of ruins. No notice had, of course, been given of our visit and the streets had only the ordinary passersby. In the square in front of the Chancellery there was, however, a considerable crowd.

When I got out of the car and walked about among them, except for one old man who shook his head disapprovingly, they all began to cheer. My hat had died with their surrender, and I was much moved by their demonstrations, and also by their haggard looks and threadbare clothes.

Then we entered the Chancellery, and for quite a long time walked through its shattered galleries and halls. Our Russian guides then took us to Hitler's air raid shelter. I went down to the bottom and saw the room in which he and his mistress had committed suicide, and when we came up again they showed us the place where his body had been burned.

The course Hitler had taken was much more convenient for us than the one I had feared. At any time in the last few months of the war he could have flown to England and sur-

rendered himself, saying, "Do what you will with me, but spare my misguided people." I have no doubt that he would have shared the fate of the Nuremberg criminals.

The moral principles of modern civilisation seem to prescribe that the leaders of a nation defeated in war shall be put to death by the victors. This will certainly stir them to fight to the bitter end in any future war, and no matter how many lives are needlessly sacrificed, it costs them no more.

It is the masses of the people who have so little to say about the starting or ending of wars who pay the additional cost. Julius Caesar followed the opposite principle, and his conquests were due almost as much to his clemency as to his prowess.

ON another occasion I inspected a four-mile line of American armour drawn up in impressive array, and also many British troops and tanks. I opened a soldiers' club for the 7th Armoured Division, whose extraordinary voyages and marches from Cairo to the goal of victory have to some extent been mentioned in previous volumes. Three or four hundred of them were gathered in the club. They all sang "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow," and were entirely friendly. I thought I detected a certain air of sheepishness, which might be due to most of them having voted adversely.

On July 18 I lunched alone with the President, and we touched on many topics. I spoke of the melancholy position of Great Britain, who had spent more than half her foreign investments for the common cause when we were all alone, and now emerged from the war with a great external debt of £3,000 million. This had grown up through buying supplies from India, Egypt, and elsewhere, with no Lend-Lease arrangement, and would impose upon us an annual exportation without any compensatory import to nourish the wages fund.

He followed this attentively and with sympathy, and declared that the United States owed Great Britain an immense debt for having held the fort at the beginning. "If France," he said, "we might be fighting the Germans on the American coast at the present time. This justifies us in regarding these matters as above the purely financial plane."

I said I had told the election crowds that we were living to a large extent upon American imported food, for which we could not pay, but we had no intention of being kept by any country, however near to us in friendship. We should have to ask for help to become a going concern again, and until we got our wheels turning properly we could be of little use to world security.

or any of the high purposes of San Francisco.

The President said he would do his very utmost; but of course I knew all the difficulties he might have in his own country.

I THEN spoke about Imperial Preference, and explained that it might cause a split in the Conservative party if it were not wisely handled. I had heard that America was making great reductions in her tariff. The President said it had been reduced by 50 per cent, and he now had authority to reduce it by another 50 per cent, leaving it at one-quarter of its prewar height. I replied that this was a great factor, and would have a powerful influence on our Dominions, especially Canada and Australia.

The President raised the subject of air and communications. He had great difficulties to face about airfields in British territory, especially in Africa, which the Americans had built at enormous cost. We ought to meet them on this, and arrange a fair plan for common use. I assured him that if I continued to be responsible I would reopen the question with him personally.

It would be a great pity if the Americans got worked up about bases and air traffic and set themselves to make a win of it at all costs. We must come to the best arrangement in our common interest. President Roosevelt knew well that I wished to go much further on this matter of airfields and other bases, and would have liked to have a reciprocal arrangement between our two countries' all over the world.

BRITAIN was a smaller Power than the United States but she had much to give. Why should not an American battleship calling at Gibraltar be able to get the torpedoes to fit her tubes and the shells to fit her guns? Why should we not share facilities for defence all over the world? We could add 50 per cent to the mobility of the American Fleet.

Mr. Truman replied that all these sentiments were very near his own heart. Any plan would have to be fitted in, in some way, with the policy of the United Nations. I said that was all right so long as the facilities were shared between Britain and the United States. There was nothing in it if they were made common to everybody.

A man might propose marriage to a young lady, but it was not much use if he were told that she would always be a sister to him. I wanted, under whatever form or cloak, a continuation of the existing wartime system of reciprocal facilities between Britain and the narrow exile from the

the United States about bases and fuelling points.

The President seemed in full accord with this, if it could be presented in a suitable fashion, and did not appear to take crudely the form of a military alliance a day. These last were not his words, but gave the impression I got of his mind.

Encouraged by this, I went on with my long-cherished idea of keeping the organisation of the Combined Chiefs of Staff in being, at any rate until the world calmed down after the great storm and until there was a world structure of such proved strength and capacity that we could safely confide ourselves to it.

The President was replying to this in an encouraging way when we were interrupted by his officers reminding him that he must now start off to see Marshal Stalin. He was good enough to say that this had been the most enjoyable luncheon he had had for many years, and how earnestly he hoped the relations I had had with President Roosevelt would be continued between him and me.

THAT night, July 18, I dined with Stalin. We were alone except for Birse and Pavlov (British and Russian interpreters). We conversed agreeably from 8.30 in the evening to 1.30 next morning without reaching any crucial topic. Major Birse produced a fairly long note which I summarised here.

My host seemed indeed to be physically rather oppressed, but his easy friendliness was most agreeable. About the British election, he said that all his information from Communist and other sources confirmed his belief that I should be returned by a majority of about 80. He thought the Labour party would obtain between 220 and 230 seats.

I did not attempt to prophesy, but I said I was not sure how the soldiers had voted. He said that the Army preferred a strong Government and would therefore vote for Conservatives. It seemed plain that he hoped that his contacts with me and Eden would not be broken.

He asked why the King was not coming to Berlin, and said it was because his visit would complicate our security problems. He then affirmed that no country needed a monarchy so much as Great Britain, because the Crown was the only force throughout the Empire, and no one who was a friend of Britain would do anything to weaken the respect shown to the Monarchy.

Our conversation continued. I said that it was my policy to welcome Russia as a Great Power on the sea. I wished to see Russian ships sailing across the oceans of the world. Russia had been like a giant with his nostrils pinched by the narrow exile from the

Baltic and the Black Sea. I then brought up the question of Turkey and the Dardanelles. The Turks were naturally anxious.

Stalin explained what had happened. The Turks had approached the Russians about a treaty of alliance. In reply the Russians had said that there could only be a treaty if neither side had any claims. Russia, however, wanted Kars and Ardahan, which had been taken away from her at the end of the last war. The Turks said they could not consider this.

RUSSIA then raised the question of the Montreux Convention. Turkey said she could not discuss that either, so Russia replied that she could not discuss a treaty of alliance.

I said that I personally would support an amendment to the Montreux Convention throwing out Japan and giving Russia access to the Mediterranean. I repeated that I welcomed Russia's appearance on the oceans, and this referred not only to the Dardanelles, but also to the Kiel Canal, which should have a regime like the Suez Canal, and to the warm waters of the Pacific. This was not out of gratitude for anything Russia had done, but was my settled policy.

He then asked me about the German Fleet. He said that a share of it would be most useful to Russia, who had suffered severe losses at sea. He was grateful for the ships we had delivered to him after the surrender of the Italian Navy, but he would like his share of the German ships as well. I did not dissent.

He then spoke of Greek aggression on the Bulgarian and Albanian frontiers. He said there were elements in Greece which were stirring up trouble. I replied that the situation on the frontiers was confused, and the Greeks were grievously alarmed about Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, but I had not heard of any fighting worthy of the name.

The Conference should make its will plain to these smaller Powers, and none should be allowed to trespass or fight. They should be told this plainly, and made to understand that any alteration to the frontier lines could only be settled at the Peace Conference.

GREECE was to have a plebiscite and free elections, and I suggested that the Great Powers should send observers to Athens. Stalin thought this would show a want of confidence in the honesty of the Greek people. He thought that the Ambassadors of the Great Powers should report on the elections.

Stalin said that in all the countries liberated by the Red Army the Russian policy was to see a strong, independent, sovereign State. He was against

Sovietisation of any of these countries. They would have free elections, and all except Fascist parties would participate.

I then spoke of the difficulties in Yugoslavia, where we had no material ambitions, but there had been the 80-50 arrangement. It was now 99 to one against Britain. Stalin protested that the proportions were 90 percent British, 10 percent Yugoslav, and 0 percent Russian interests. The Soviet Government often did not know what Tito was about to do.

Stalin also said that he had been hurt by the American demand for a change of Government in Rumania and Bulgaria. He was not meddling in Greek affairs, and it was unjust of them. I said I had not yet seen the American proposals. He explained that in countries where there had been an emigre Government he had found it necessary to assist in the creation of a home Government.

This, of course, did not apply to Rumania and Bulgaria, where everything was peaceful. When I asked why the Soviet Government had given an award to King Michael he said he thought the King had acted bravely and wisely at the time of the coup d'état.

I then said how anxious people were about Russia's intentions. I drew a line from the North Cape to Albania, and named the capitals east of that line which were in Russian hands. It looked as if Russia were rolling on westwards. Stalin said he had no such intention. On the contrary, he was withdrawing troops from the West; two million men would be demobilised and sent home within the next four months.

FURTHER demobilisation was only a question of efficient railway transport. Russian losses during the war had amounted to five million killed and missing. The Germans had mobilised 18 million men, apart from industry, and the Russians 12 million.

I said I hoped that before the Conference ended we should be able to agree about the frontiers of all the European countries, as well as Russia's access to the seas and the division of the German Fleet. The three Powers gathered round the table were the strongest the world had ever seen, and it was their task to maintain the peace of the world.

Stalin apologised for not having officially thanked Great Britain for her help in sending supplies during the war. Russia would make her acknowledgments.

He said that Russia was ready to talk about trade with Britain. I said that the best publicity for Soviet Russia abroad would be the happiness and well-being of her people. Stalin spoke of the continuity of Soviet policy. If anything were to happen to him there would be good men ready to step into his shoes. He was thinking 30 years ahead.

(Continued Tomorrow)

(World Copyright reserved. No production, even partially, in any language, strictly prohibited.)

BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILLINGS TO		
"FUKIEN"	Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka & Kobe	8 a.m. 30th Dec.
"HUNAN"	Tsingtao & Tientsin	10 a.m. 30th Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"HANYANG"	Indonesia & Singapore	20th Dec.
"YUNNAN"	Shanghai	20th Dec.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILLINGS TO		
"TAIPING"	Kobe & Yokohama	9th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"SINKIANG"	Melbourne & Manila	30th Dec.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

Sails		
"AUTOLYCUS"	Genoa, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London, Antwerp & Hamburg	27th Dec. 28th Dec.
"PERSEUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	15th Jan. 16th Jan.
"ANCHISE"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan. 14th Jan.
"CLYTONEUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan. 23rd Jan.
"ASTYANAX"	Genoa, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London & Hamburg	24th Jan. 25th Jan.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Sails		
S. "ANCHISE"	Liverpool	13th Jan.
G. "CLYTONEUS"	do	14th Jan.
G. "PERSEUS"	do	16th Jan.
S. "EUMAEUS"	do	17th Jan.
G. "ASCANIUS"	do	18th Jan.
S. "AGAPENOR"	do	19th Jan.
G. "PELEUS"	do	20th Jan.

De La Rama Lines

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

Sails N.Y.		
"AGAMEMNON"	Sailed	30th Dec.
"DONA AURORA"	do	10th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	22nd Jan.
"BATAAN"	do	15th Jan.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	do	18th Jan.

SAILING FOR NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES & CRISTOBAL.

Sails		
"AJAX"	4th Jan.	5th Jan.
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.
"AGAMEMNON"	3rd Feb.	4th Feb.

Accept cargo for Kingston and to Central & South America ports on through bills of lading.

Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Depart Hongkong	Arrives U.K. (on return)
HK/Bangkok/Singapore	(DC-4) 7.00 a.m. Tue. Fri.	7.15 a.m. Wed. Sat
HK/Manila/B.N. Borneo	(DC-3) 9.30 a.m. Tue. Fri.	3.40 p.m. Wed. Sat
HK/Singapore	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Wed.	5.00 p.m. Thu.
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong	(DC-3) 10.00 a.m. Wed.	3.40 p.m. Thu.
HK/Bangkok/Hongkong/Calcutta	(DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Sat.	4.30 p.m. Sun.

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

For particulars please apply to:

Butterfield & Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.

1 Connaught Rd. Tel: 30331/8

Branch Office: 50 Connaught Rd. West. Tel: 25875, 32144, 24878

CHINA MAIL

HONGKONG

PUBLISHED DAILY (AFTERNOONS)
Price, 20 cents per copy.
Saturday 30 cents
Subscription: \$6.00 per month

Postage: China and Macao 13.00 per month, U.K. 18.00 per month, and other countries \$7.00 per month.
News contributions, always welcome, should be addressed to the Editor, business communications and advertisements to the Secretary.
Telephone: 26111 (5 lines).

SEWLOON OFFICE

Salisbury Road, Telephone: 25432.

Classified Advertisements

20 WORDS \$4.00
for 1 DAY PREPAID
ADDITIONAL INSERTIONS \$1.50 PER DAY
10 cents PER WORD OVER 20

Births, Deaths, Marriages, Personal \$5.00 per insertion not exceeding 25 words, 25 cents each additional word.

ALTERNATE INSERTIONS 10% EXTRA
If not prepaid a booking fee of 50 cents is charged.

DEATHS

O'BRIEN—Eugenia Marie, passed peacefully away at 7.20 a.m. December 28, 1953. Aged 87. Beloved mother of Peter and Patrick O'Brien and Nora Sina. Funeral will pass the Monument at 5.15 p.m. today. Manila newspapers please copy.

MUSICAL

HCA Victor LP records consisting of symphonies, operas, chamber music, instrumental and vocal. Available D. Jones, 4A Des Vieux Road, Room 1, 2nd floor. Tel. 30100.

FOR SALE

COLUMBIA COPPERPLATE Copying. Pencil, Red, Blue, Green, Yellow, Brown, Black, \$2 per gross, \$4 per dozen, 40 cents each. Obtainable at "S. C. M. Post."

"DEVON VALLEY" Blotting Paper. White in sheets 17 1/2" X 23 1/2", cut to any size, 20 cents per sheet, \$15 per 100. Available at South China Morning Post.

Peace Delegates Turned Back By U.K. Officials

London, Dec. 27. Dr. Paul Oesterich, German delegate to the coming school teachers' peace congress, was turned back by the British immigration authorities when he arrived at Heathrow airport from Hamburg on Sunday night.

Dr. Oesterich was ordered to fly back to Hamburg on Monday morning after spending the night at the Heathrow airport.

Two French delegates, J. Comand and his wife, were also turned back when they disembarked at Newhaven. They were requested to return to Dieppe on Monday morning.

The school teachers' peace congress is due to begin here on Tuesday, France-Press.

Queen Mother At Carol Service

London, Dec. 27. The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and other members of the Royal family, who are spending Christmas at Sandringham, drove to the village church of West Newton in Norfolk tonight to join tenants and workers on the Royal estate in a special carol service.

A 15-year-old Sandringham schoolgirl, Gillian Piter, the village schoolmaster, Mr. J. Fulmer, the head gardener on the estate, Mr. H. Parsons, and the church organist, Mr. F. K. Bone, were among those who read lessons.

This morning the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret attended services in Sandringham Church, but 3,000 people who waited to see Prince Charles and Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's children, were disappointed.

They went for a walk in the garden at Sandringham instead.—Reuter.

Morocco Bomb Outrage Was Timed For Christmas

Cairo, Dec. 27. Two Egyptian newspapers today carried a communiqué put out by the "Bureau of Arab North Africa" in Tangiers claiming that the bomb outrages in Casablanca on December 24 had been deliberately timed to coincide with the Christmas Festival.

The communiqué said that the French had chosen the chief Moslem festival, August 20, to exile the Sultan of Morocco.

"Our commandos," said the communiqué, "have avenged that by exploding a certain number of bombs at Casablanca. The French Resident-General had thus to pass Christmas Day following the funerals of French dead."

The Egyptian newspaper "Al Gomhourya" headlined the communiqué "a revenge during Christmas festivities." "Al Kasira," a weekly, also carried the communiqué, stating, "the Moroccans chose Christmas Day for their vengeance."—France-Press.

Indonesian Reds Protest

The Hague, Dec. 27. The Indonesian Communist Party has protested to India against her refusal to grant visas for a delegation to attend an Indian Communist Party Congress due to open today, according to a Djakarta cable reaching here today.

The cable from the Indonesian news agency, Aneta, said the protest was lodged via the Indian Embassy at Djakarta.—Reuter.

Messageries Maritimes

P.O. Box 53 Queen's Building. Tel: 26651.

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN

by the luxurious

m.v. "LA MARSEILLAISE"

Sailing from Hongkong 30th December 1953

NOTICE

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Tai Ping Insurance Co., Ltd., Hong Kong Branch

The Tai Ping Underwriters, (H.K.) Ltd.

As from 24th December, 1953

our Telephone Numbers will be:—

33330 (New lines replacing previous

28055 number 26191)

28056

Assuring you of our best attention at all times.

MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

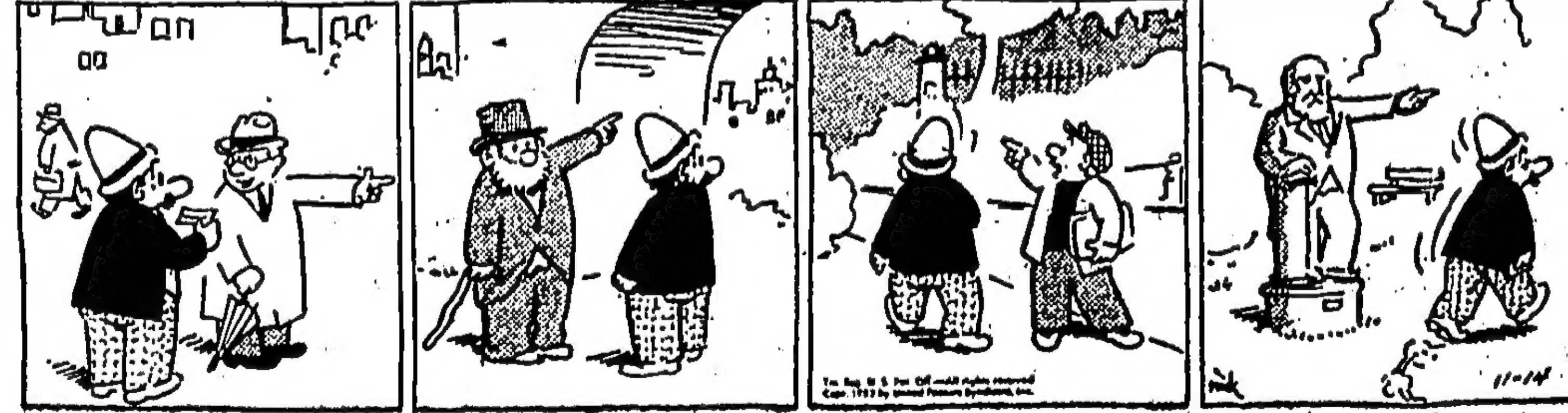
By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

It's Thata Way

By Milk



NANCY

Oh, Yeah!

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



P&O B.I.E.A. COMPANIES

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL S.N. CO.

PASSENGER/FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leave London	Due Hongkong
"CORFU"	10th December	12th January
"CHUSAN"	18th December	18th January
"CANTON"	10th January	12th February
"CARTHAGE"	4th February	8th March
via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo		

Homewards	Leave Hongkong	Due London
"CORFU"	15th January	10th February
"CHUSAN"	1st February	1st March
"CANTON"	15th February	15th March
"CARTHAGE"	12th March	12th April
Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London		

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Leave London	For
"TRESILLIAN"	10th January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, Glasgow, Liverpool, North Continent
"SOCOTRA"	2nd January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, North Continent

Homewards	Leave London	For
"SUNDA"	6th January	Strait, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Oran, Marseilles, North Continent

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after Strait Ports and at Bombay & Madras en route.
Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk
Space for refrigerated cargo. Limited Passenger accommodation.

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"SIRDIANA"	due 2nd Jan.	from Japan
	4th Jan.	for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon & Calcutta
"WARORA"	due 6th Jan.	from Japan
	7th Jan.	for Singapore, Rangoon & Calcutta
"ANSHUN"	due 10th Jan.	from Calcutta, Rangoon & Straits
	11th Jan.	for Japan

P. & O.B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"ORNA"	In Port	from Japan
	25th Dec.	for Singapore, Penang, Port Swettenham, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah. Also other P. & O. Gulf Ports via Bombay

"OKHLA"	due 12th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 13th Jan.	for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah. Also other P. & O. Gulf Ports via Bombay

"UMARIA"	due 22nd Jan.	P. Gulf Ports via
	sails 23rd Jan.	Bombay
		from Japan
		for Singapore, Colombo
		Bombay, Karachi, Ku-
		wall, Khorramshahr &
		Basrah. Also other P
		Gulf Ports via Bombay

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"NELLOBE"	due 14th Jan.	from Japan
	sails 16th Jan.	for Sydney, Adelaide & Melbourne
"EASERN"	due 10th Feb.	from Australia
	sails 20th Feb.	for Japan

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

For full particulars apply to:

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.

OF HONG KONG LTD.

Telephone Nos. 27721-4.

Malayan Threat Of "Common Hate" Against U.K. Rule

Singapore, Dec. 28.

A warning to Britain that delay in transferring power to Malaya might make the people impatient and hostile had come from one of Malaya's leading Chinese politicians, Dato Sir Cheng-lock Tan.

"The people, he declared, might forge a bond of 'common hate' to attain independence. The argument that there must be national unity before self-government and that such unity was impossible because of communal antagonism would be regarded by the people as a policy of 'divide and rule' and would be resented."

Sir Cheng-lock Tan was opening the annual general conference of the Malayan Chinese Association, which is allied with the United Malays National Organisation into a strong nationwide political alliance.

He said the M.C.A. sought full democratic self-government within the British Commonwealth in a reasonable time.

He agreed that because of the many races in Malaya, national unity might take time to achieve, but the work of creating must go hand in hand with the task of getting self rule.

The existence of the M.C.A.-U.M.N.O. alliance was positive evidence that national unity was being sought by the people. The Chinese especially had come to stay in Malaya, he said, and must make this country their permanent homeland and the object of their loyalty.

About half of Malaya's population of 6,000,000 are Chinese, he said.

Dato Sir Cheng-lock Tan was re-elected President of the M.C.A. for a third term by the 70 delegates and Singapore delegates.—Reuter.



Queen Ingrid Attends First Night



A happy picture of Queen Ingrid of Denmark when attending the first night performance at the Norrebro Theatre, Copenhagen, of the Henrik Ibsen play "A Doll's House", with an English cast from the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.—Express Photo.

News from one of Australia's northern outposts:

Colonial Officers Tame New Britain's Savage Jungle Tribesmen

Melbourne, Dec. 27.

A handful of Australian colonial administration officials have succeeded in taming one of the world's wildest tribes of savages, who are now learning the ways and habits of white men.

News of the transformation of the formerly ferocious natives in the Mokolkol area of New Britain has been brought out of the jungles by Patrol Officer John Norton who has just returned from a patrol of the area; where he was greeted without any sign of hostility.

Norton read his report at a time when Australians have just been shocked by the recent murder of two patrol officers at the hands of fierce pigmy tribesmen in the wild highland country of New Guinea.

Patrol officer Geoffrey Harris and Genral Szarkas were tomahawked to death in a lonely area to prevent them from learning about ancient tribal initiation rites. They were on a similar mission to that of Patrol Officer Norton.

The Australian Administration had scarcely settled in New Britain under the League of Nations mandate in 1922 when stories of the nomadic tribesmen's raids on neighbouring villages were relayed to officials. Fanatically, the tribesmen were told of their ferocity and agility, and in tribal folk lore they were reputed to have had relations with forest demons following a quarrel which caused them to leave their former outlying island home of Lolobau for New Britain.

Superb bushcraft and heretofore methods of attack in which, with light, long-handled axes in each hand, they roved through surprised villages yelling and slashing indiscriminately, resulted in their undisputed control of about 500 square miles of bushland into which no other natives would enter.

Yet, after the war, patrols definitely established that the numerical strength of the tribe was less than thirty. The first contact between the Mokolkols and the whites is believed to have been in 1950 when Assistant District Officer D.M. Flennert led a patrol into the territory of this fierce tribesmen.

The party managed to bring back to the colonial settlement of Rabaul a small group who were taught elementary hygiene and to speak pidgin English. They were also told that the Administration would not tolerate any more raids on other tribes and that the Mokolkols were expected to settle down in a village and stay there.

SETTLED DOWN Norton's latest patrol found that the formerly wild tribe have apparently given up their nomadic way of life, built huts, established gardens and collected reserves of food. There were no dogs or fowls about, but the Mokolkols are believed to train their pigs to follow them like dogs.

At that height, reported the leader of the party, Mr. John Bechervaise, the peak looked "completely attainable." He said the greatest difficulties were then behind them. Intense blizzards, lack of visibility and short rations, however, defeated them.

Mr. Bechervaise, an experienced mountaineer, who is officer in charge of the 1953 Antarctic Research Expedition, had made elaborate preparations for the assault on Big Ben. With the remainder of his party, two meteorologists, Mr. Fred Elliott and Mr. Peter Shaw, he made several preparatory excursions upon the lower slopes, and constructed four ice caves at strategic points which were stocked with food.

The party, roped together, pressed on up the mountain to a point immediately below the summit slopes, overlooking the Colley Glacier.

In 1952, an attempt to scale the mountain was abandoned because the death of two meteorologists left the weather station short-staffed.

This year's party climbed to 5,000 feet, the highest yet before it was driven back by blizzards and short rations, after 15 days.

U.S. Senator Sees Danger Of A Slump

Washington, Dec. 27. Senator Paul H. Douglas recommended today that excise tax cuts scheduled for April 1 be allowed to come into effect immediately to help bolster the country against a depression.

While emphasizing that he was not predicting a depression, Senator Douglas told reporters he sees some "danger" of an economic slump. He proposed that plans be developed right away so the government would be prepared to combat a depression in case one should develop.

Senator Douglas was a professor of economics at the University of Chicago before his election to the Senate.

He said he had found farm implement factories "in a very hard" position, and that he understood the automobile industry "is beginning to feel the pinch." Both factors, he said, result in a cutback in the demand for steel.

His nervousness about the possibility of a depression was based on his fear that such factors could set off a chain reaction to cause an economic slump. He said, however, that he sees no danger of a depression as serious as that of the early 1930's.

Senator Douglas said that excise tax reduction would result in lower prices of the products affected with a resulting increase in demand for them.

He was asked specially about the excise tax cuts, provided in present law for next April 1, at a cost to the Treasury of about \$1,000,000,000 a year. President Eisenhower has asked Congress to postpone the scheduled cuts indefinitely.

Senator Douglas said he favoured allowing the reductions to take effect on schedule. He added that a \$1,000,000,000 cut "might not be enough."

"The excise cuts scheduled for April 1 would affect automobiles, mobile and auto parts, gasoline, liquor, sporting goods and cigarettes," he added.—United Press.

Japan Biggest Exporter Of Cotton Textiles

New York, Dec. 27.

The Journal of Commerce today predicted that Japan will be this year's leading cotton textiles exporter with an estimated 800,000,000 yard exports of cotton goods alone.

Racer-up probably will be the United Kingdom, with India in third place, the United States in fourth.

The United Kingdom estimated totals for 1953 were put at 800 million yards, that of India at about 700 million yards.

The United States, the Journal said, will be lucky if final 1953 exports total 625 million yards of goods.

US exports of cotton goods in 1952 totalled 700 million yards. The expected drop this year was attributed by the Journal of Commerce to increased competition from overseas, principally by the Japanese and to increased import restrictions against American goods in Venezuela, Peru, Cuba and other Latin American countries.

American exporters are less than optimistic for 1954, the Journal said. Many complain that while the US has been offering tariff concessions abroad, other countries have been permitted to raise their duties on American imports.

On that basis, the Journal added, US textile men "believe it will be difficult to American exporters to equal 1953 shipments."

US exports for the first nine months of this year totalled 477,789,054 yards, compared with 504,420,057 in 1952.—United Press.

U.K. Notes In Circulation

London, Dec. 27.

The Bank of England statement for the week ended Dec. 23 reads as follows:—

Now in circulation:—
Public deposits: 2,224,000,000
Private deposits: 2,224,000,000
Government securities: 2,224,000,000
Other securities: 2,224,000,000
Total: 8,896,000,000

RECORD OUTPUT IN 1953 UK Production Up 5 p.c.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

There is good end-of-the-year news this week from the industrial front. Production has broken all records with the total industrial output this year five per cent higher than in 1952 and between one and two per cent above the previous highest level of 1951.

In the steel industry production continues to expand month by month. In the first eleven months of this year crude steel was being turned out at an annual rate of 17,600,000 tons compared with the previous best figure of 16,400,000 tons in 1950.

As a result deliveries of finished steel have been running at about seven per cent above last year and the Treasury has just announced: "No serious shortages."

Production records have been broken in the coal mines, too. The latest weekly figures show output has at last topped peak levels achieved in the dark post-Dunkirk days of 1940.

The total coal production in the first 60 weeks of this year was 216,915,000 tons or 1,700,000 tons less than in the same period last year. But this year, for the first time, miners took two weeks holiday. Instead of one and three was another day's production lost because of Coronation-day holiday.

Extra holidays cost 6,400,000 tons of coal, so comparison with last year is not as unfavourable as it first appears.

Unfortunately, the Treasury says, most of this year's rise in production has stemmed from the increase in home demand including some restocking—particularly of goods most affected by last year's recession—and not from the export drive.

Recently however there has been some improvement in Britain's external trade position. In the first half of 1953, a gap of £380 million between imports and exports was more than offset by "invisible" income—such services as shipping, insurance, overseas investments, etc.

TRADE SURPLUS

As a result, the United Kingdom earned a modest surplus of £26 million in the first half of the year. Since then imports have been maintained around their previous level while exports have improved slightly. In fact, in November, they were the highest since March last year.

The trade gap during this period has been running at the half-yearly rate of about £285 million so that, with its continuing and probably growing net income on "invisible" account, the United Kingdom should end the year comfortably in surplus on its balance of payments.

A recovery from 1952 has also been marked by an improvement in the gold and dollar position. In the 11 months to the end of November, reserves rose by 683 million dollars compared with a loss of 175 million dollars for the whole of last year.

But despite these achievements the United Kingdom is losing ground in world markets. Increasing competition—especially from Western Germany and Japan—has caused its share of world trade to decline.

Calling attention to this, the Treasury recently pointed out that while the volume of world exports rose seven per cent between 1950 and 1952, British exports fell in volume by five per cent. The fact that Britain was able to strengthen her external trade position in 1953 was largely because of the improvement in her terms of trade. Thus in the first half of this year, it would have needed only the same volume of exports as in the first half of 1951 to buy about one-quarter more imports.

UNBETTERED OUTLOOK Can Britain meet the challenge of increasing competition in 1954? There can be no assurance on this point. Wages, which represent a large proportion of production costs, continued to rise this year, though at a somewhat slower rate than in previous years.

At the end of September weekly wage rates were three per cent higher than in 1952, although the cost of living remained more or less stable.

Recent wage claims moreover threaten to increase industry's costs still further. Although the terms of last week's settlement of the railway dispute are not known, it is certain that further wages will add to the

SHARES FIRM IN LONDON

(By C. T. Hallinan)

London, Dec. 27.

The London Stock Exchange should end the year with industrial shares almost at their highest levels of the year.

The Financial Times' index of leading industrial stocks held trading to a minimum in all basic textile-fibre markets this week.

A good many cotton mill and converter firms suspended business on Wednesday night until Monday morning for the holidays.

Some mill executives believed the full week would extend for another week or more. Reasoning was that distributors now will be pre-occupied with inventory-taking.

While business in cotton grey goods proved strictly of a hand-to-mouth basis, some quarters felt that if cloth buyers can be convinced that raw cotton prices "are scraping bottom" they would modify present close-buying policies.

Converters, looking at the cheery side, thought inventories in the consumer pipeline have been whittled down to a very low point and that the New Year could usher in a good amount of "necessitous buying."

In cotton yarns, it was the same story—hand-to-mouth buying with consumers constantly looking for price concessions.

Hard fibre featured continued firmness in burst prices while buyers became more restive because of the continued firmness in raw fibre price and the overhanging threat for a new break-out in the longshoreman's strike.

The rayon grey goods market continued quiet with mills closing down from three days to a week for the holidays.

Woolen and worsted fabric distributors were counting on a post-holiday activity about the middle of January.—United Press.

New Uses For Butter

Washington, Dec. 27.

The United States Agriculture Department announced a new "experimental" programme to sell Government-owned butter for use as a cocoa butter substitute.

The Department said it would soon offer some of its surplus butter on a bid basis but did not announce operating details of its proposed programme. The idea was to develop new uses for surplus butter stocks.

The Department said it thought butter could be substituted in part for cocoa butter by converting butter into oil and blending it with the cocoa.—China Mail Special.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$271,880. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS
HSBC Bank 1000 1015 10 @ 1010

INSURANCES
Lombard 100 105 100 @ 105

SHIPPING
Waterboat 100 105 100 @ 105

DOCKS, ETC.
K. Wharf 100 105 100 @ 105

LAND, ETC.
H.K. Land 100 105 100 @ 105

UTILITIES
H.K. Electric 100 105 100 @ 105

INDUSTRIALS
H.K. Industries 100 105 100 @ 105

STORES, ETC.
H.K. Stores 100 105 100 @ 105

COTTONS
H.K. Cottons 100 105 100 @ 105

MISCELLANEOUS
H.K. Misc. 100 105 100 @ 105

US TEXTILE MARKET

New York, Dec. 27.

Christmas holiday influence held trading to a minimum in all basic textile-fibre markets this week.

A good many cotton mill and converter firms suspended business on Wednesday night until Monday morning for the holidays.

Some mill executives believed the full week would extend for another week or more. Reasoning was that distributors now will be pre-occupied with inventory-taking.

While business in cotton grey goods proved strictly of a hand-to-mouth basis, some quarters felt that if cloth buyers can be convinced that raw cotton prices "are scraping bottom" they would modify present close-buying policies.

Converters, looking at the cheery side, thought inventories in the consumer pipeline have been whittled down to a very low point and that the New Year could usher in a good amount of "necessitous buying."

In cotton yarns, it was the same story—hand-to-mouth buying with consumers constantly looking for price concessions.

Hard fibre featured continued firmness in burst prices while buyers became more restive because of the continued firmness in raw fibre price and the overhanging threat for a new break-out in the longshoreman's strike.

The rayon grey goods market continued quiet with mills closing down from three days to a week for the holidays.

Woolen and worsted fabric distributors were counting on a post-holiday activity about the middle of January.—United Press.

Jap Marine Tonnage Increasing

Tokyo, Dec. 27.

Japan's war-crippled merchant fleet has recovered considerably during the last eight years but there is still a wide gap between Japan and other countries.

A recent Transportation Ministry check showed Japanese merchant marine tonnage as 1,300,000 gross tons at the time of the surrender in August 15, 1945. It had risen to 3,030,000 gross tons by October, 1953.

This figure is 78 per cent of the 3,900,000 gross tons possessed by Japan in 1934-35 and 54 per cent of the 1940 peak of 5,600,000 tons.

However, the total marine tonnage held by the United States increased to 25,040,000 tons last year from 23,040,000 tons in 1939 and Panamanian registered ships showed a rise to 3,610,000 tons from 720,000 over the same period.

Japanese vessels, including tankers, carried to and from Japan in 1952 a total of 12,400,000 tons of which imports totalled 10,900,000.

This is only 40 per cent (30 per cent for imports and 20 per cent for exports) of the average 25,400,000 tons (imports 17,200,000 and exports 8,200,000 tons) carried during the 1934-35 period.

Last year's figure is also far less than the 32,100,000 tons (imports 21,500,000 tons and exports 10,600,000 tons) transported in 1940.

Japanese ships last year carried 43 per cent (45 per cent for imports and 32 per cent for exports) of the amount as against 58 per cent (57 per cent for imports and 63 per cent for exports) in 1934-35.

In respect to the speed of the ships, the average for Japanese as of February this year was 13.1 knots and that of foreign ships 14.3 knots, while in 1937 it was 12.7 knots for Japanese vessels and 12.6 knots for foreign ships.—United Press.

New York Stock Market

By Elmer Walzer

New York, Dec. 27.

The stock market turned down in the Christmas holiday week.

Trading was moderately active with the list was trending lower but lightened on a late recovery.

The rally came too late to do much good and it met opposition from the usual week-end evening up operations. The market had a holiday from Thursday's close to Monday's opening.

Prices slipped off on Monday and broke off sharply on Tuesday. Another decline on Wednesday ended in a rally from the lows. Thursday's day market brought a small recovery on light volume.

The decline more than wiped out last week's rise, mostly because of further weakness in rails. Industrials were lower but were not down as much as they gained in the previous week. Utilities lost the least.

Tuesday's selling reflected uncertainty over a sharp decline in steel operations. The nation's steel mills scheduled their operations at 68.6 per cent of rated capacity, lowest since the strike-ridden July 28, 1952 week.

However, Wall Street hears that the steel mills are preparing for a good first quarter in 1954. Fisher Body has asked its steel producers to step up deliveries and was seen as indicating a big quarter for the automobile companies as well.

Business news generally suffered from the holiday. The losses were larger than is usual for a holiday in that Christmas fell at the end of the week. Many plants shut down for several days.

Despite the declining tendencies in the market as a whole, there was still a great deal of selective buying here and there throughout the list. Some tax selling appeared.—United Press.

New York, Dec. 27.
Steel mill operations in the United States during the coming week are scheduled at 68.6 per cent of rated capacity, with production at 1,500,000 tons. This compares with last week's 68.6 per cent with production at 1,500,000 tons. The 1952 week ended July 28, 1952, had a production of 1,500,000 tons at 68.6 per cent of rated capacity.

Exchange Rates

Business was done in the foreign exchange market this morning at the following rates:—

US Dollar (per £1) 1.00 @ 1.00
Sterling (per \$1) 0.75 @ 0.75
Swiss Franc (per \$1) 0.45 @ 0.45
French Franc (per \$1) 0.05 @ 0.05

SILENTBLOC LTD.
FLEXIBLE BEARINGS, FLEXIBLE COUPLINGS, ENGINE MOUNTINGS.
ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT CONSULTANTS
R.M.K. & Shanghai Bank Bldg. Tel. 27789

CHINA MAIL

LARGEST WRITING MILEAGE GUARANTEED
SHEAFFER'S
NEW
"500"
RETRACTABLE BALLPOINT PEN \$6.50

Page 10 MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1953.

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Insults Abounding

DMITRI'S world has become peopled with enemies, and insults abounding fill the air. He fights his imagined enemies with his fists, with the right hook of which he is so proud; the insults that only he can hear, he answers with knife-edged irony.

He is a little man, dapper in his dress, handsome in an aquiline, Mediterranean way, with dark restless eyes, and a small dark moustache that is drawn in a scimitar-curve above his thin lips.

The other evening, Dmitri visited a cousin's cafe in Soho, and he found the cafe filled, as it seemed to him, with his enemies. He set about the innocent customers, going for three in quick succession before the police could be called.

ARREST

THE police helped Dmitri's cousin put him out, and no one wished to prefer a charge, and nothing more would have happened, had not Dmitri tried to force his way back into the cafe. The policeman then was obliged to arrest him.

Next morning, at Great Marlborough Street, Dmitri in a deep, bass voice, pleaded not guilty to using threatening behaviour, and a police inspector told the story of the night before to Mr. Paul Bennett VC, the magistrate.

HIS RIGHT HOOK

THE learned clerk presently asked him: "Do you want to go into the witness-box and take the oath?"

"Sure, sure," Dmitri said. "What language would you like? English? German? Polish? Greek?"

There was no answer, so he spoke in English, and holding up his banded right hand said: "It is under my right hand, I make trouble, not me. I show them with my right hook."

"Just a moment," said the learned clerk. "Where do you live?"

"I live where I get a bed," Dmitri said. "Last night, it was at Her Majesty's hotel, ha-ha. Other times it is my cousin's cafe."

"What do you want to say?"

DEEP ANALOGY

DMITRI put his left hand to his right shoulder: "Listen," he said, "this shoulder broken because I give the hook." He switched his right hand to his left shoulder: "This shoulder not broken because I tell the truth."

He paused for the force of the analogy to sink in, then went on: "I admire the Queen verro much. I respect the Crown. But of all the people in the world I like best that last witness, the inspector."

As the compliment seemed the sum of what he wanted to say, Mr. Bennett told him to return to the dock.

RATHER DIFFICULT

MR BENNETT asked him: "Have you any witnesses?"

"I have 34 witnesses, all honourable policemen," Dmitri answered, but evidently he was speaking figuratively, for he quickly lost interest in the subject.

"Well, I convict you," said the magistrate. "I shall remand you for a medical report."

"Your excellency," said Dmitri, and with a low sweeping bow, left.

When he had gone, Mr. Bennett called back the inspector. "There seems to be some mental trouble," he observed.

"Yes, sir," the inspector said. "I understand that his cousin has been trying to help him, but that he is rather difficult to help."

By now, in the prison hospital, the doctors perhaps will have routed one and for all Dmitri's imagined enemies, and cleared the air of the imagined insults. The little man will be again at peace with the world, with his cousin, his country's customers, and with himself.

Our Australian Newsletter

A Record Christmas

From H. King Wood

Sydney, Dec. 24. Our record Christmas will be over by the time this is published, but even at this stage it is worth recording for two reasons:

Record sizzling heat that made a furnace of Christmas shopping week, and

Bank men report that in Sydney alone three festive shoppers managed quite easily to get rid of £12-million — which is really spending.

And while all this rush and bustle was going on, gangs of workmen have been busy working on buildings ready for the Royal Visit. Already decorative arches are going up in the outer city, and once the old year does die there will be a mad scramble to complete the Royal decorations.

All experts agree that with a near-record wool year, a record Christmas, and the Royal tour coming so soon afterwards, the financial year June-June is likely to be one that will take some beating in the years to come.

FINE PERFORMANCE
A 15-year-old Chinese girl who could not speak English when she arrived in Australia eight months ago has topped her class of 32.

The girl is Audrey Yip, daughter of a Singapore merchant who brought his family of five to this country so that they could get an Australian education. The father decided to come to Australia after talking to Australian troops during the last war.

A Japanese wife of an Australian serviceman recently arrived in Sydney with her papers marked: "To be delivered to the GPO, Brisbane."

The woman was kept on the liner Taping until Army officials had tried to locate her husband. She was sent by air to Brisbane next day.

SHIP "WEARS"
A British freighter which is the world's only ship to "wear" the Victoria Cross, is in Sydney.

The freighter is the Otaki (10,000 tons) which is on her maiden voyage from Britain. Otaki received the VC through a strange set of circumstances.

The late Captain A. Bissett Smith, master of the Otaki's namesake in World War I was awarded the VC posthumously.

In Otaki, which was armed with six 4-inch guns, he fought the German raider, Möwe, to a standstill, and Capt. Bissett Smith went down with his ship.

The VC was one of the possessions of Bissett Smith's family for many years. Then last year it turned up in a London junk auction.

The New Zealand Shipping Co., which owns the Otaki, successfully bid for the lot which contained the VC. The company then gained permission from the Admiralty to enshrine the Cross in the lounge of the new vessel. The master of the vessel has been appointed custodian.

A NEW SEARCH
Four of the Melbourne geophysicists whose field work for the Bureau of Mineral Resources led to the Exmouth Gulf oil find, are back in Melbourne working on another search for oil.

They are examining equipment which the bureau will use in a Gippsland (Victoria) oil search next month.

The four men concerned live for six months each year in the field, living in huts where oil has to be carried miles in the blazing heat.

"There are no hunches in this oil game," the Bureau's deputy director, Mr. J. M. Rayner, said.

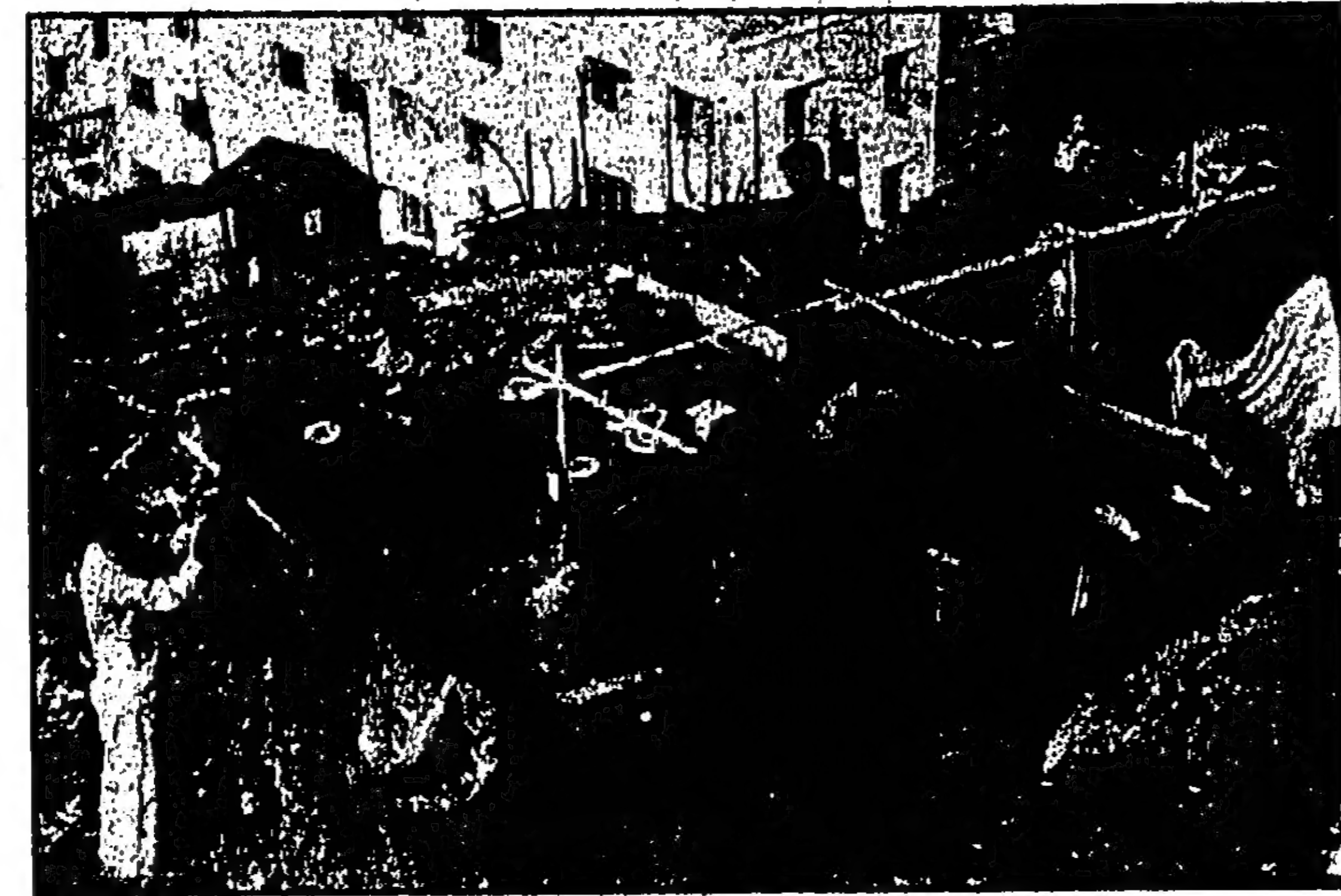
"The Exmouth Gulf discovery was the result of years of hard work."

FAST WORK
A 3,000-ton ship was launched at the Newcastle State Dockyard this week after being built in the last time of eight months.

A spokesman for the Australian Shipbuilding Board said this was an Australian record and an effort probably unequalled overseas. The usual time for building a ship of this size is about two years.

Reason for the speedy construction was that all steel and other materials were readily available during the construction.

Aftermath Of Christmas Disaster



Undaunted by the loss of their squatter huts, these victims of the Shum-shu-po fire yesterday began to erect temporary shelters, but because of the danger of another fire being caused, they were requested to remove the flimsy "huts", which they did.—Staff Photographer.

Marsmans Studying Possibility Of Starting A Quarry

"With a steady demand of aggregate, locally as well as from Borneo, a careful study is being made with a view of starting a quarry by utilising our complete set of quarry machinery," said Mr Joseph Yen, Chairman of the Directors of Marsman Hongkong China, Ltd., in speaking on the company's future at the Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Company held this morning.

In presenting his report, Mr Yen said: "You have before you the report of your Directors and Statement of Accounts for the past fiscal year, which are submitted as disclosing the position of the Company on April 30th 1953, at the close of the Company's fiscal year. A net profit of £15,228.28 was recorded under review."

First it is my duty to record the loss of the quarry by the resignation of Mr T. B. Wilson, Dr. H. H. Marsman, Mr B. W. Mason, Mr J. H. Huber, Mr J. B. Staples, Mr A. J. Vellia and Mr H. J. Pearce, all of them have devoted so much effort to the quarry that they have been unable to join with me in recording our progress for the year.

CONSTRUCTION DEPT.
On the Construction Dept.—Invitations to tender for various structural works were received in connection with wharf repairs, Government buildings and roads and the possibility of a large initial expenditure in connection with the Tai Lam Chung Reservoir works was investigated. In all cases the plans and specifications were carefully considered and the site visited. It was apparent in each case that there were considerable savings to be made on a competitive basis. It was decided therefore to withdraw from competition tendering. The policy adopted was to withdraw all our plant and equipment and transport vehicles into our yard at Mei Lai, Kowloon, and thoroughly overhaul these prior to offering them on the market.

As there was still a shortage of such plant, we were able to dispose of favourable prices of such plant and vehicles for which we saw no further use, on this item we made a profit on sale of machinery, plant and equipment to the amount of £15,228.28. Reserving for the time being the quarry plant and certain equipment for which employment at the mining property is contemplated.

"Mining Dept.—Needle Hill Mines was continuously operated successfully under the agreement with Messrs Hoong Fook Mining Co., Ltd. The production was an average of 420 tonnes per day over the period under review. The concentrates give a satisfactory analysis and the metal content of our production has been shipped to America, which resulted in a profit of £15,228.28 during the year. No active mining has been carried out since the end of the year. The question of whether to continue the operation of the mine has been under investigation by the Japanese engineers from the Nippon Cement Co., Ltd. in order to plan out a new method for mechanical operation of our mine."

A SMALL LOSS
Traditionally, the small loss has been kept in touch with our various buyers and succeeded in obtaining a number of orders. However, the political situation with its associated restrictions is still depressing our trading business."

"Quarrying Companies—Marsman Metal & Trading Co., Ltd. has been operating at a small loss during the year. Our subsidiary, the South China Quarrying Co., Ltd., has been operating at a small loss with a net profit of £10,947.15. The quarrying of aggregate with a steady demand of aggregate."

Swineherd's Confession

Castiglari, Sardinia, Dec. 27.

A 42-year-old swineherd presented himself to the police here tonight, told them he had shot two other swineherds whom he suspected of theft and added "anyway I will be better off in prison than looking after pigs."

Police found the bodies of Antonio Cocco, 39, and Giovanni Dessi, 28, before the pigs they were grazing had attacked them. Both had been shot at point-blank range.

The man who gave himself up tonight said he was sure they had stolen five piglets and a sow from him.

Police officers asked him if he were not worried about what would happen to his wife and four children.

He replied: "My wife has a lot of chickens. She can bring their necks when she is hungry. The children can get on their own, as thousands of other orphans do."

Police said the children were aged from six to 13.—Reuter.

OUTLAW REDS, PROPOSITION

Washington, Dec. 27.

Rep. Harley O. Staggers (Democrat, West Virginia) proposed today that Congress create a 12-man commission to study whether the Communist Party should be outlawed.

He said he personally favours such a ban. "However, I realise that the great tradition of freedom upon which this nation is based outweighs my personal beliefs," he said.

Rep. Staggers said he will introduce legislation to submit the issue to a commission of outstanding Americans including judges and former elective officials.—United Press.

Mossadegh To Appeal

Tehran, Dec. 27.

A seven-member military tribunal will begin hearings next Saturday on the appeals of former Iranian Premier Mohammed Mossadegh and former Chief of Staff Rahn, it was announced here tonight.

Mossadegh was sentenced last week to three years' imprisonment and Rahn to two years. The hearings will be public and are expected to last for about one month, the government spokesman, General Farzegan, told the press.—France-Press.

Repulse Bay Road Accident

About 7 p.m., on Christmas Day, Mrs M. Lister was driving her private car along Repulse Bay Road, when, in order to avoid a collision with another car, she swerved, and ran into the hillside of the road, damaging the vehicle, slightly, and receiving a minor injury to the knee.

She was taken to the Queen Mary Hospital, where she was treated for shock.

Man On Stretcher Pleads Not Guilty To Arson Charge

Appearing in Court on a stretcher, Ching Ling, 36, former Royal Naval Dockyard coolie, faced two charges of arson before the Acting Chief Justice, Mr Justice T. J. Gould in the Criminal Sessions this morning.

It is alleged that accused unlawfully and maliciously set fire to the second floor of No. 1 Queen's Road East, where he was an occupant, on November 24 last year.

Another count of arson against the accused was withdrawn, the Crown offering no evidence. The Jury of five men and two women formally returned a verdict of not guilty in respect of that count.

Prosecuting is Mr D.N.E. Rea, Crown Counsel, assisted by Insp. J. Andrews. Accused was not legally represented.

Crown Counsel told the Jury that on November 24 last accused was occupying a bed space in the passage way of No. 1 Queen's Road East, second floor. The bed space was next to the stairway.

Another bed space, next to that of the accused, was occupied by Cheung Hung-wai who shared it with his wife and child.

On that particular night Cheung slept on a canvas bed between another bed space occupied by his (Cheung's) mother and the verandah.

About 5 a.m. Cheung's wife noticed accused moving to and fro between his bed space and the kitchen, but did not pay particular attention to accused, as she was looking after her child, said the Prosecution.

HEARD MATCH STRUCK
An hour later Cheung's wife heard the sound of a match being struck and at the same time saw flames coming from the direction of accused's bed space.

She raised an alarm and ran to the verandah. The other occupants of the premises were awakened.

At this time, Cheung Wai-hung saw accused waving a cotton quilt, which was also in flames, in the direction of the fire. Cheung eventually succeeded in pulling away the quilt from the accused.

Part of Cheung's trousers were burned as a result. Accused then fled from the premises.

There was general confusion and shortly afterwards the Fire Brigade and the Police arrived. The Police noticed that the stairway next to accused's bed space was charred. The quilt was later examined by a Government chemist, who would testify that he estimated that it contained about half a gallon of kerosene.

Evidence would be given that on the morning before the fire, accused was seen bringing in a new tin of kerosene.

Mr Rea said that to prove that the accused did set fire to a house, it was only necessary to prove that he caused some part of the house to be charred. It was not necessary that it was in flames and extensively damaged.

SECOND COUNT
The other count against the accused was that he set fire to bedding and wood shavings which were in the house in such circumstances that if the building as a result had been set fire to, accused would have been guilty of a felony.

To prove that offence, it was not necessary that any part of the house was set on fire. If the Jury was satisfied that the accused set fire to the bedding and wood shavings, they would have no difficulty in finding him guilty of that count.

Insp. J. Andrews, Divisional Detective Inspector, Eastern Police Station, said he went with a party of Police to No. 1 Queen's Road East about 7 a.m. on November 24 last.

A number of steps of the staircase were charred, and witness produced a piece of wood which he said was taken from a step.

He collected a number of exhibits which included a large sack of wood shavings, a small oil lamp, five bed boards and trestles, a tin containing small pieces of wood, a box of wood shavings, a grass mat, a number of rags and pieces of socking, a small tin which smelt strongly of kerosene and a curtain which was slightly burnt.

Dr Hu Shih-cheng, medical officer attached to Queen Mary Hospital, said he examined Cheung Hung-wai and Leung Kwong-fong on the morning of November 24.

Cheung was suffering from shock. He found extensive burns involving both hands and a greater part of both lower limbs. He treated the patient and admitted him to hospital.

Leung was found to be suffering from superficial burns and was discharged after first aid treatment, witness said.

Dr Y. K. Tso, medical officer, Queen Mary Hospital, said he took over the treatment of Cheung Hung-wai, in addition to the injuries described by the last witness. Dr Tso said that on closer examination he found that the patient's eyebrows and eyelashes and the roots of his hair were all charred. The patient was removed to the Litchfield Hospital on January 22. Hearing is proceeding.

Death Of Old HK Resident

One of Hongkong's oldest residents, 87-year-old Mrs Eileen Farley O'Brien, of 41 King's Road, ground floor, died this morning after a long illness.

The late Mrs O'Brien, who was born in Hongkong, leaves to mourn their loss two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The sons are Mr Peter and Mr Patrick O'Brien, and the daughter, Mrs Nora Silva.

The funeral will take place today, the cortege passing the Monument at 5.15 p.m.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than those shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
By Air
Formosa, Okinawa, 6 p.m.
Philippines, North Borneo, 6 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Burma, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 6 p.m.
By Surface
Macao, 8 a.m.
USSR, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
By Air
Hawaii, USA and Canada, 10 a.m.
India, China, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 6 p.m.
By Surface
China, People's Republic, 6.30 a.m.
Macao, 8 a.m.
Burma, India, Noon.
Japan and Canada, 1 p.m.
Malaya, Ceylon, Pakistan, Aden, Middle East, Italy, 6 p.m.
Macao, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, USA and Canada, 8 a.m.
India, China, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 6 a.m.

NO QUALIFIED COXSAIN

Charged with being under-way without a certificated coxswain, Ma Fung-king, 34, master of a motor fishing vessel, was fined \$150 by Mr A. G. Cresswell at the Marine Court this morning.

Sub-insp. K. T. Wong, prosecuting, told the court that defendant's vessel was intercepted while entering the southern entrance of Yau-nat typhoon shelter on Sunday morning. The vessel was carrying a load of fresh fish at the time. During a routine check it was discovered that no qualified coxswain had been on board during the voyage.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"The first time you've taken me out to dine in weeks, and you want me to go into the kitchen and show the chef how I make cocktail sauce!"

Printed and published by WHITSON & ALICK GREENMAN for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited, at 1-3 Wharfedale Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.